United Nations S/PV.7013

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7013th meeting

Tuesday, 30 July 2013, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2013/420)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

Accessible document

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2013/420)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2013/448, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Rwanda, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/420, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, France, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2113 (2013).

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to thank all members of the Council for their cooperation in drafting resolution 2113 (2013). We welcome the renewal of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), in accordance with resolution 1769 (2007), under which it was established. We also reaffirm the importance of coordinating and discussing these issues with the Government of the Sudan in order to consider all measures undertaken towards the renewal of the mandate. In that regard, I refer in particular to the review provided for in paragraph 3 of the resolution, to be conducted in close consultation with the African Union and the Secretary-General, who is requested to present his recommendations in February 2014.

I reaffirm the report's conclusion that the situation in Darfur has improved since UNAMID was launched. We echo the Security Council's concern over the failure of certain parties to sign the peace agreement. All direct and indirect support for those movements must be halted.

As for the crimes that have been committed in Darfur, we welcome the investigations undertaken by the Special Prosecutor, and commend the Security Council for encouraging that process. We also welcome the Council's support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and commend its refusal to accept the lack of support on the part of certain parties to the peace agreement and its insistence that those movements end their hostilities.

The Security Council has condemned every act of violence in Darfur. We support in particular its condemnation of the assassination of Mohamed Bashar, as well as the unfortunate incident in which seven Tanzanian soldiers lost their lives. We reiterate our condolences and our willingness to work with the Security Council to pursue our investigations and arrest those responsible. The attack was merely an attempt to undermine the Darfur peace process. We reiterate the principled position of the Government of the Sudan that a solution to the conflict cannot be found other than through negotiations and the peace process, which the rebel attacks on UNAMID are attempts to forestall.

We hope that the Security Council will help the Government of the Sudan in its ongoing efforts to achieve peace, security and stability in my country.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations

S/PV.7014

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7014th meeting

Tuesday, 30 July 2013, 10.20 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2013/392)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

Accessible document

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2013/392)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2013/441, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/392, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I should like to inform the Council that the presidency of the Council has met with the representatives of the parties, who have confirmed that they maintain their well-known positions vis-à-vis the item on the Council's agenda. On the basis of those meetings, with the consent of the members of the Council, the presidency has drawn the conclusion that the Council can proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, China, France, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Pakistan

The President: There were 13 votes in favour, none against and two abstentions. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 2114 (2013).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We thank the United Kingdom for preparing resolution 2114 (2013) on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and for steering its delicate negotiating process.

Pakistan welcomes the first interaction between the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus in May this year and the prospects of the commencement of the negotiating process later this year. Pakistan supports Cyprus-led and Cyprus-owned negotiations. We hope that both parties will direct their efforts towards a results-oriented process leading to a durable settlement. We support the efforts of the Security Council and the good offices mission.

As for the resolution just adopted, we had made a number of suggestions to ensure a fair balance in the draft. Some suggestions were taken on board, and we deeply appreciate that. However, a reference to joint statements, including those of 23 May and July 2008, was deleted. That constrained us to abstain in the voting on the draft resolution. Our abstention is without prejudice to our support for the extension of UNFICYP's mandate and the early commencement of negotiations.

We support the essential objectives of the resolution.

Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan): I should like briefly to share with the Council the reasoning behind our abstention in the voting on resolution 2114 (2013).

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to the delegation of the United Kingdom for its leadership and efforts in facilitating the negotiations on the resolution. Azerbaijan fully supports the Secretary-General's good offices mission and the six-month mandate renewal of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. At the same time, similarly to our approach taken with regard to previous resolutions on the issue, both conceptual and some textual considerations again prevented us from voting in favour of the resolution.

We believe that achieving a mutually acceptable and comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, within the established United Nations parameters, is possible and within reach. The resolution just adopted urges the sides to resume their substantive negotiations and continue their discussions to reach decisive progress on the core issues, and stresses that the status quo is unsustainable.

However, in our view, the resolution does not provide a full and proper update of the situation and does not place the required emphasis on the necessity to agree on a results-oriented process. Furthermore, as a result of the efforts aimed at finding a compromise rather than reflecting the factual situation, certain provisions of the resolution do not accurately describe some of the developments on the ground. This is the case, for example, with regard to paragraph 5 of the resolution, in which it would be essential to welcome not only the efforts to accommodate the Committee on Missing Persons exhumation requirements, but also the actual access granted to that end.

For the reasons I have just cited, Azerbaijan decided to abstain in the voting on resolution 2014 (2013).

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I would like to express the sincere appreciation of the delegation of the United States to the members of the Council and to the secretariat of the Council for all the support they have given to us this month. Indeed, it has been a busy month and one in which we rallied to consensus on several important issues within our purview. We could not have done it without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat, as well as the interpreters, translators, meeting services staff and sound engineers.

As we end our presidency, I know I speak on behalf of the Council in wishing the delegation of Argentina good luck in the month of August.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7015

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7015th meeting

Tuesday, 6 August 2013, 9.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Fernández/Mr. Timerman	(Argentina)
Members:	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mammadyarov
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Guatemala	Mr. Carrera
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Amrani
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 1 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/446)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

Accessible document

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 9.55 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first meeting of the Council for the month of August 2013, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2013. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing our deep appreciation to Ambassador DiCarlo and her team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

I should also like to extend, on behalf of the Council, a warm welcome to the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Her Excellency Ms. Samantha Power.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 1 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/446)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to welcome the Secretary-General, Ministers, and other representatives participating in today's meeting. Their presence is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter to be addressed.

Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Armenia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Viet Nam to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Fathalla, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of America States, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2013/446, which contains a letter dated 1 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, containing a concept paper on the item to be considered.

The last time the Security Council held a debate from a broad perspective on the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations was on 13 January 2010 on the initiative of the People's Republic of China (S/PV.6257). As a result of the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/1), which, while emphasizing the Security Council's primacy in maintaining international peace and security, stressed the importance of developing effective partnerships. The Security Council also expressed its intention to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of early warning and prevention of conflicts, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and to ensure the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts.

The primary objective of today's open debate is to consider the role of regional and subregional organizations, exploring options to strengthen the bilateral relationships between the United Nations and the spectrum of regional and subregional organizations and arrangements.

It is worth mentioning that in recent years, new subregional arrangements and organizations have played a fundamental role, both in conflict prevention and in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. Other arrangements and organizations have developed new capabilities for action in the maintenance of international peace and security as evidenced in a number of peacekeeping operations.

Members of the Council have before them a draft presidential statement on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank the Council members for their valuable contributions to the draft statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2013/12.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I thank President Cristina Fernández and the Government of Argentina for scheduling today's important debate.

The architects of the United Nations Charter were visionary in foreseeing a world where the United Nations and regional organizations worked together to prevent, manage and resolve crises. However, it is hard to imagine that they could have anticipated the interconnected nature of the threats we face today or the range of cooperation between the United Nations regional and subregional organizations.

Chapter VIII is as relevant today as ever. Many regional and subregional organizations have long histories of engagement in conflict prevention and mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Others are becoming increasingly active in these fields.As Secretary-General, I have seen first-hand the value of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations across the globe.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we have a long history of partnership, including deploying joint missions with the Organization of American States. Today we work together in a range of areas from mediation and dialogue to combating illicit trafficking. I welcome the emergence of thge Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and their contributions to both peace and security and sustainable development on the continent. I was pleased to participate in the seventh general meeting of the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) last month to discuss ways to address climate change, sustainable development and transnational organized crime.

In Africa, we cooperate closely with the African Union (AU) and subregional economic communities. Through our joint peacekeeping and mediation efforts in Darfur, the AU and the United Nations remain committed to facilitating a comprehensive and inclusive settlement to the conflict. In Somalia, we have worked hand-in-hand with the African Union Mission in Somalia and have assisted Somali partners in successfully concluding an eight-year political transition.

Collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the AU was essential to our response in Côte d'Ivoire and is central to our efforts in Mali. Here, the early deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali, combined with ECOWAS-led mediation efforts in the North, have laid the foundations for the peace process. The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo — supported by 11 African leaders, the AU, the Southern African Development Community, the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations — represents the best opportunity for years for forging a durable peace.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the United Nations and the League of Arab States are working to support inclusive political processes in Tunisia, Libya, and Yemen. And we continue to search for a political solution to the crisis in Syria, including through the deployment of our Joint Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi.

Regular joint consultations between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations continue to create important opportunities for mutual cooperation, including promoting peacebuilding, reconciliation and political reform in Myanmar, and preventive diplomacy in Mindanao.

We also work closely with our European partners. Cooperation with the European Union (EU) is geographically and substantively wide-ranging. In recent years, we have strengthened collaboration in the Middle East, Somalia, Mali and elsewhere. The EU is a champion of the United Nations work in mediation and recently facilitated a historic agreement between Pristina and Belgrade. With the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, we partner to advance human rights, confidence-building, counter-terrorism and disarmament in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Of course, we sometimes face challenges when working together. Our organizations do not always have the same approach to a given crisis. Our diverse mandates and membership can lead to different perspectives. This debate is a welcome opportunity to explore the nature of these challenges and consider how to improve cooperation. I strongly believe in the combined value of our respective strengths. Regional and subregional organizations have deep knowledge, unique insights and strong local networks. These elements are critical to mediation, planning a peacekeeping operation or helping a country to build lasting peace.

To this equation, the United Nations adds its universal membership and legitimacy, long experience and operational capacity in the area of international peace and security. Through concrete initiatives, we are building on our collective strengths. In some cases, we have established formal partnership agreements and work plans that guide day-to-day collaboration. Staff exchanges have created networks that help us respond to evolving situations on the ground. Joint mediation deployments, training and capacity-building have enabled us to build common understanding and present a united front.

However, there is always room for improvement. We are better at sharing information and analysis on brewing crises, but we have to work harder on swift response and long-term prevention. We need to learn from the lessons of our collaborations to build ever more innovative and flexible partnership arrangements that draw on our respective strengths. Let us also consider how to expand cooperation and dialogue with a broader range of organizations in the pursuit of international peace and security. Only through cooperation will we meet our shared aspirations for a more peaceful world.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba and President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me first to thank you, Madam, and the Government of the Argentine Republic for the invitation conveyed to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which Cuba is honoured to preside, to participate for the first time in a debate of the Security Council.

The history of Latin America and the Caribbean has changed. Two hundred years after our independence, the ideas of "a Nation of Republics" and of "Our America" envisaged by Bolívar and Martí, respectively, are taking shape. Thus, our Heads of State and Government decided in the Caracas Declaration that,

> "in accordance with the original mandate of our liberators, CELAC must move forward in the process of political, economic, social and cultural integration, based on a wise equilibrium between the unity and diversity of our peoples, so that the regional integration mechanism can become the ideal space to express our rich cultural diversity and also the forum to reaffirm the Latin American and the Caribbean identity, our common history and our ongoing struggles for justice and liberty".

They also agreed that,

> "recognizing the right of each nation to build freely and peacefully its own political and economic system, in the framework of the corresponding institutions according with the sovereign mandate of its people, the processes of dialogue, exchange and political negotiation carried out by CELAC must be pursued taking into account the following common values and principles: respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prohibition of the use and the threat of use of force, respect for self-determination, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of each country, and the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy".

Latin America and the Caribbean have resolved to walk in closed ranks, like the silver in the roots of the Andes. We have provided ourselves with institutions that allow us to promote unity within our diversity, integrate ourselves and cooperate, discuss among ourselves the issues that are germane to us, and be in solidarity to one another to solve the pressing problems that still encumber Latin America and the Caribbean. We intend to develop ourselves, live in peace, protect human dignity and preserve and enrich our culture.

We congratulate ourselves on the fact that CELAC is reaching common views in areas such as social development, education, health, the environment, energy and financing, among others, and now is preparing to work together in the areas of cooperation, nuclear disarmament, fighting corruption, agriculture, science and technology.

I pay tribute to President Hugo Chávez Frías, one of the founders and principal architects of CELAC. I can feel his presence among us.

Upon founding CELAC, our Heads of State and Government reiterated "our commitment to the building of a more just, equitable and harmonious international order based on respect for international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States". They reaffirmed our commitment to the defence of sovereignty and the right of any State to establish its own political system, free from threats, aggression and unilateral coercive measures and in an environment of peace, stability, justice, democracy and respect for human rights.

They expressed their conviction that the unity and political, economic, social and cultural integration of Latin America and the Caribbean constituted a requirement for the region to successfully confront the challenges before us. And they decided to promote and project a unified voice for Latin America and the Caribbean in the discussion of the principal issues and in the positions of the region on the relevant global events at international meetings and conferences, as well as in the dialogue with other regions and countries.

Likewise, they reiterated that CELAC was an important mechanism to promote the interests of developing countries in multilateral organizations in order to reinforce our capacity to react in a coordinated manner to the challenges of a world in the process of a profound economic and political change, as well as our commitment to strengthen CELAC to promote and project the interests and concerns of Latin America and the Caribbean on the main issues of the international agenda and to bring together positions and coordinate ourselves, when possible, at international meetings and conferences of global reach. In that regard, we highlight the work done by the Permanent Representatives of CELAC member States to the United Nations, who have agreed on an internal mechanism for concerted participation in the discussions at the various committees to which the consensual position of CELAC has been put forward. As a result, we commit to strengthen coordination efforts at the Headquarters, including promoting joint initiatives on issues of interest to the region.

On several occasions, CELAC has put forward before the United Nations its common vision about some of the main challenges faced by the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention of conflicts.

In relation to current United Nations peacekeeping efforts, CELAC believes that, with the purpose of achieving stability in the long term, as well as to prevent the recurrence of conflicts, it is necessary to strengthen the strategic, comprehensive and coordinated presence of the United Nations in the field, not only in the area of peacekeeping, which is essential, but also by strengthening national institutions and promoting reconstruction and economic and social development in areas of conflict. In that regard, CELAC urges greater interaction and coordination among Member States and all the relevant organs of the United Nations. Regional and subregional organizations have an essential role to play in conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, CELAC recognizes in particular the contribution made by the African Union, which has proved to be most useful in some peacekeeping operations, where its cooperation has complemented the efforts of the United Nations.

CELAC reiterates that there can be no lasting peace without development and the eradication of poverty, hunger and inequality. That principle is the essence of the solidarity and cooperation of CELAC members countries towards the sister nation of Haiti — a country whose heroic role in the independence of the countries of the region continues to inspire our current integration efforts. While recognizing the fundamental role of the presence of the Organization in Haiti through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the efforts of the international community to support Haiti, CELAC reaffirms that those efforts will be effective as long as they are part of a long-term sustainable project under the leadership and guidance of the Haitian Government, with full respect for its sovereignty.

It is high time for our region to contribute to the equilibrium of the world with all the might of its almost 600 million inhabitants, who are seeking equal opportunities; its abundant natural resources, over which we shall permanently exercise our sovereignty; its economic capabilities, even in circumstances of global economic crisis; and its extraordinary ancestral culture and the unyielding determination of our peoples to achieve peace, development, justice and progress.

The fact that numerous countries and organizations have found in CELAC a valid interlocutor with Latin America and the Caribbean is a source of satisfaction.

We are pleased that the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States is able to participate in this Security Council debate. CELAC has already started to appear before the United Nations as a united force. Our common positions on numerous topics of interest for the international community portend our possibilities.

At the First CELAC Summit, we renewed our countries' commitment to multilateralism and to a comprehensive reform of the United Nations system, as well as to the democratization of international decision-making forums, in particular the security Council.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a zone of peace free from nuclear weapons. CELAC has adopted a unanimous position with regard to some far-reaching topics on the international agenda, such as, for example, Argentina's legitimate claim in the dispute concerning the sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and — today, on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima — on so-called nuclear disarmament.

As for Cuba, which continues its struggle, I shall say nothing on this occasion on which I am speaking on behalf of CELAC.

We must now continue to go forward. Let no difference hold us back. Let us remain united. Let nothing prevent us from honouring the legacy of the liberators of our America.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Minister Rodriguez Parrilla for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, who will speak on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union.

Mr. Tekeda (Ethiopia): At the outset, I wish to express our appreciation to Argentina for organizing this open debate, for its concept note (S/2013/446, annex) and for making it possible for the African Union (AU) to participate in this important meeting. We also appreciate the briefing by the Secretary-General.

In our view, this debate comes at the right time, when Africa is making tremendous efforts at the continental and subregional levels to address the peace and security deficit that Africa continues to face. That has been facilitated by a well-defined strategy encapsulated by the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture, an initiative of the AU that, along with other positive and innovative steps taken by the African Union in the areas of human rights, governance and the protection of constitutional order, signifies how meaningful the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the AU has been. That needs to be underlined, all the more so during the year when we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of the African Union/AU.

We in the African Union are absolutely convinced that a principled, consistent and predictable cooperation between the United Nations, on the one hand, and regional and subregional organizations, on the other, is indispensable to the maintenance of international peace and security. We note with appreciation that, over the past few years, significant strides have been made in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction. That is indeed in consonance with the overriding objective of the African Union's peace and security agenda, which is to create an enabling momentum for a more integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa.

In this regard, the signing and implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are examples of cooperation based on flexibility and making the best use of the comparative advantages of the African Union, subregional organizations and the United Nations in conflict prevention, effective mediation, peacekeeping, peace support missions and peacebuilding strategies.

It is becoming self-evident that success, even limited progress, in international and regional peace and security requires effective cooperation between regional and subregional organizations of the United Nations within the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, consistent with the primary responsibility of the Security Council for ensuring international peace and security.

It should be stated quite frankly that while much progress has been made in cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and its subregional organizations, much remains to be done to ensure that the comparative advantages of each is put to optimal use. The Secretary-General could not have put it better when he said in 2010 in his progress report on the United Nations support to the African Union, in which he said:

> "The complex challenges in the world today require a revitalized and evolving interpretations of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations" (*S/2010/514, para. 54*).

He also reiterated in the same report "the need for the Security Council to enunciate its vision of that strategic partnership" (*ibid., para. 55*). "This would entail" he added,

> "a clearly defined expectation of the role of regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, and would empower the Secretariat to be able to help implement that vision" (*ibid.*).

As the representative of one permanent member of the Security Council said early last year, "The United Nations needs a strong African Union, and the African Union needs a strong United Nations" (*S/PV.6702, p. 15*).

It would suffice to focus on two areas where there is a need for greater cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and its regional organizations, regarding which, perhaps, the vision of the Security Council might facilitate progress. The first issue involves the perennial question of predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for African Union peace-support missions authorized by the Security Council. There has indeed been some progress in this area, as we can see in the much improved arrangement for AMISOM with respect to the logistics package, which is now funded from assessed contributions. But this is still a far cry from what the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations had proposed some years ago. The Secretary-General was even more forthcoming on this point when he said again in the aforementioned report to the Council that

> "the support package for AMISOM should be identical to the support provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and that action should be taken to ensure parity between the reimbursement rate for AMISOM contingent personnel and United Nations contingent personnel" (*op. cit., para. 61*).

But the need for further enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the AU and its subregional organizations ought not to be seen only from the funding point of view, no matter how critical that aspect might be. No less vital is the need for consultation and effective coordination between the two organizations. There is room for improvement in this area, though in terms of formal interactions on the question of peace and security, perhaps the AU and its Peace and Security Council could be deemed to occupy a privileged position, largely owing to the fact that the majority of the issues before the Council are African.

Obviously, the AU and its subregional organizations are better placed in terms of geographical proximity, political and cultural familiarity with local conditions, and shared experiences, which are critical to making a real difference for peace. Hence, without prejudice to the global mandate of the Council in the maintenance of global peace and security, the smart thing to do would be to raise the level of consultation between the two organizations in more substantive terms. In this regard, greater efforts are required to ensure that cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is more effective, including through joint planning and joint assessment for peace operations in the continent. These efforts must be guided by genuine respect for the strength each can bring to bear on a given situation, based on a mutually agreed division of labour that focuses on results.

The mandate of the Security Council is clear. It is the body that has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. But it should not be too difficult to apply Chapter VIII of the Charter with flexibility and wisdom, the goal being to address a common challenge. Indeed, the results achieved in the Sudan, Somalia and other regional security concerns are illustrative of what can be achieved in this regard.

We would therefore like to emphasize the need in the same spirit as the United Nations to intensify such regional initiatives and to accelerate its efforts to implement the United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. More efforts are also required to fully operationalize the African Union continental peace and security architecture, including the Standby Force and the Continental Early Warning System.

Furthermore, the enhancement of cooperation between the Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, including the annual consultations, is vital for reaching those objectives. It is our considered view that these meetings should result in concrete action-oriented initiatives for the development of strategic partnerships when addressing specific issues of mutual interest and concern. In this regard, concrete steps should also be taken to strengthen the policy-level coordination between the two organizations, not only to avoid conflicting initiatives but also a duplication of efforts.

At the operational level, the Secretariat and the African Union Commission need to ensure the complementarity of their efforts. Strengthening the efforts of the African Union and its institutional capacity to effectively plan, deploy and manage peacekeeping operations is in the interests of both entities. All this is bound to make the partnership, between the United Nations and the AU more meaningful and productive. We believe that there is scope in the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to move in this direction.

Our best intentions would, however, amount to nothing if we failed to provide adequate, flexible and predictable funding for AU peace support missions. The AU is also determined to do its level best in this area. At its recently held Summit in Addis Ababa in May, the African Union noted "the need for increased funding from within the continent to assert Africa's ownership and leadership, as well as the challenge faced in building innovative and flexible partnership with the United Nations and other stakeholders". It has also decided to do even more with respect to enhancing Africa's capacity for immediate crisis-response.

In conclusion, it is our considered view that much has been done to ensure greater cooperation between the United Nations and the AU to promote peace and security in Africa, but much remains to be done. Africa is ready for such cooperation because it is in its interest to do so. No doubt, such cooperation is also in the interest of the international community.

The President: I thank the representative of Ethiopia for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Eda Rivas Franchini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, who will speak on behalf of the Union of South American Nations.

Ms. Rivas Franchini (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, on behalf of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), over which Peru is honoured to preside, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Argentine Republic, in particular to President Cristina Fernández, on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, an auspicious occasion for UNASUR and Latin America as a whole. We wish them every success in carrying out that weighty responsibility, which we will follow with the highest of expectations. I also express my warmest congratulations to you, Madam President, for initiating this debate, as well as my thanks for being invited to participate, which allows UNASUR, as a regional body, to address the Council for the first time.

I would like, at the outset, to emphasize that our South American integration process is based on the fundamental pillars of peace and democracy.

South America is a region where we can say that there are no inter-State conflicts that constitute a threat to international peace and security, nor situations of extreme violence. However, the member States of UNASUR recognize that peace and security must be preserved permanently. All South Americans are fully convinced that the best way to achieve that is by striving for integration based on respect for the fundamental principles of international law, whose chief purpose is development with economic and social inclusion, the daily strengthening of democracy and full respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

UNASUR's activities and its Constitutive Treaty are fully consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recognize the primary role that the Charter entrusts to the Security Council in the difficult task of maintaining international peace and security. UNASUR also recognizes the complementary role played in that regard by regional bodies. Likewise, UNASUR attaches particular importance to respect for the fundamental principle of the sovereignty of States. Our members are convinced of the need for autonomy for regional bodies with regard to States and bodies foreign to them, in particularly with regard to security matters.

In carrying out the responsibilities falling to regional and subregional organizations, UNASUR reiterates the need for such organizations to maintain close cooperation with the United Nations, as well as smooth communication channels with the Security Council on the activities undertaken or contemplated by those organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

UNASUR was born as a distinct political body compared to other regional forums. It also has an important role in preventing conflicts and promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes of any kind that may arise in the region. Therefore, first and foremost, we in South America believe in finding our own intraregional solutions.

Since its establishment, in 2008, UNASUR has conducted itself in full accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with peace as its overriding purpose and the aspiration of all its peoples, and its preservation being a main element of our strategic vision for South American integration. South American nations view integration as a parallel process that is consistent with strengthening multilateralism and promoting full respect for international law, in a world where the sovereign equality of States and the culture of peace prevail and the use of force and non-legitimate means of defence are excluded, including nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. One of the challenges for UNASUR is therefore to promote total disarmament so that the region is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, a status that must be respected by all States, in particular those with nuclear weapons, as established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco and its Protocol II.

As South America is a region with a vocation for peace, the efforts of UNASUR are intended to build links aimed at strengthening cooperation and building trust among States. To that end, UNASUR's structure provides for a specific body for consultation, cooperation and coordination on defence, namely, the South American Defence Council, a forum for international and intergovernmental cooperation that respects diversity and seeks dialogue and a common identity on defence. In its short existence, it has been able to make effective contributions to regional stability and the cause of peace. It has no offensive purpose and is not structured along the lines of external threats or enemies. Its main areas of activity include exchanging lessons learned in the peaceful settlement of disputes; conflict early-warning; undertaking humanitarian activities; establishing confidence-building measures; developing various forms of cooperation for technology transfer; developing institutional capacity and human resources in the area of defence; and immediate response to natural disasters.

In 2001, for the first time in the history of South America, we adopted a registrer of defence expenditures, which includes a specific methodology for the region. We are making progress on a South American military inventory, which in its experimental stage is developing a South American formula for military inventories. We are also developing a manual for the systematic and efficient classification of procedures for implementing confidence- and security-building measures. We believe that those registers are complementary to those maintained by the United Nations and allow for an exchange of information that avoids duplication. In that regard, it is in our common interest that the United Nations and UNASUR cooperate to further strengthen confidence and security.

In another area of activity, our countries are participating with resolve in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the Simon Bolivar Brigade for Assistance and Humanitarian Aid and other similar missions in other regions of the world. That gives us an opportunity to carry out a fruitful exchange experiences and to contribute to development.

The case of Haiti also serves to illustrate the commitment of UNASUR to the cause of regional solidarity with regard to the efforts of Haiti's Government and society to consolidate stability, strengthen institutions, carry out reconstruction efforts and bring about sustainable development with social justice. To that end, UNASUR has established a permanent technical secretariat in Haiti and put in place a solidarity fund to which its member States contribute.

In our own region, UNASUR reaffirms its full support for the peace process between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. This is a historic opportunity, fostered by the environment of cooperation and dialogue that prevails in South America. It is important to emphasize the support provided by different countries in the region to the process, in particular Venezuela, Chile and Cuba. The success of the peace process, based on the strength of democratic institutions we share, will have far-reaching significance for Colombia and the entire South American region, thereby allowing us to concentrate increasingly on development.

An important step in reaffirming our commitment to peace, democracy and socio-economic development was the unanimous adoption by the representatives of our region during the sixth UNASUR summit, in Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2012, of the Lima Declaration, designating South America as a zone of peace. UNASUR member States expressed their firm resolve to maintain South America as a zone of peace and to fully support that goal through regional and bilateral cooperation.

The establishment of the zone of peace, as contained in that important Declaration, reflects UNASUR members' respect for the principles and norms of international law, including the international treatises to which we are party and the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, we confirm our States' commitment to use peaceful means in the settlement of disputes and to abstain from threats or the use of force against the territorial integrity of another State.

The declaration of South America as a zone of peace also affirms the goal of building confidence and strengthening security and enforcement procedures through tangible transparency action with respect to military spending. The Declaration adopted in Lima also includes strengthened efforts to establish South America as a zone free of anti-personnel landmines in the context of the obligations of States parties under relevant international conventions and similarly focused bilateral efforts. It also calls for continuing negotiations under the South American Defense Council towards a peace, security and cooperation protocol, which is a Peruvian initiative, the complexity of which resulted from thorough reflection and the gradual progress made in efforts to achieve its ambitious goals.

UNASUR also spoke at the sixth ordinary summit in Lima on the fight against terrorism by adopting a special communiqué to support the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Through the communiqué, the South American States reiterated their strongest condemnation of that scourge as criminal and unjustifiable in any circumstances, wherever and by whomever committed, and because it poses a serious threat to international peace and security and to democratic institutions and values. They reiterated their willingness to strengthen domestic legislation and to take further steps to prevent terrorist activities and acts that incite or encourage terrorism, and expressed their commitment to preventing the cross-border movement of terrorists.

Before concluding, I should like, in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, to briefly affirm my country's long-standing commitment to peace and respect for international law and to fulfilling its international obligations, as well as its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Peru's contribution to international peace and security and regional cooperation goes back to the beginnings of the Republic. At that time, we also participated in the establishment of the United Nations, itself the most universal of forums in which Peru has always firmly advocated in favour of the pillars of peace.

I thank you again, Madam, on behalf of UNASUR, for your invitation to participate in this important debate, which reflects the Council's important recognition of the work of our regional South American organization in contributing to international peace and security, particularly in ensuring conditions conducive to strengthening and maintaining peace in South America.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Minister Rivas Franchini for her briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Fathalla, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations.

Mr. Fathalla (*spoke in Arabic*): I welcome the presence of Ms. Cristina Fernández, President of Argentina and Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General. At the outset, I congratulate the Republic of Argentina for presiding over the work of the Security Council for the month. At the same time, I extend thanks and appreciation for the convening of this high-level meeting of the Security Council to discuss cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations, as is well known, goes back to 1981, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/24. It is important to support that cooperation now, given current developments in the Middle East and the problems generated by that situation, the continuation of which represents a threat to international peace and security.

That requires improved cooperation between the two organizations in extending humanitarian assistance to address the suffering of refugees and those adversely affected by war, conflict and natural disasters, including in the area of peacebuilding and in efforts to assist States in building capacity and infrastructure in the post-crisis period. This is a delicate moment requiring ongoing support in order to avoid the risk of relapsing into further conflict.

In that connection, the League of Arab States has issued numerous decisions calling on the Security Council to assume its role in the maintenance of international peace and security with regard to a number of Middle East issues. In that respect, the League of Arab States believes that one of the most important pillars of international peace and security is the Council's credibility and effectiveness and the scrupulous, genuine and full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Council, many of which relate to our region.

Those resolutions have not been implemented for many years; some, such as those on the question of Palestine, have languished for more than 50 years. The continued lack of implementation of those resolutions constitutes one of the main reasons of regional and international tension and instability. On the other hand, the inability of the Council to adopt a resolution — despite full knowledge that the events occurring in some regions, particularly in the Middle East, threaten international peace and security — highlights the need to end that controversial trend evident among members of the Council and to seriously consider decisions of regional organizations. In that context, I note in particular cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations, in terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

I reiterate that this important principle is entrenched in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which encourages regional organizations to address matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security and to seek the peaceful settlement of disputes in cooperation with the Security Council.

Frequently changing international situations and developments and deepening regional and international crises require strengthened cooperation and the accelerated adoption and implementation by the Security Council of decisions taken by regional organizations. The various developments transpiring in the Arab region must be reflected in a number of pillars of international legitimacy, most important among which are the agreements reached at the meeting between the two organizations in Vienna in 2012. That is a part of the periodic meetings held once every two years to evaluate the achievements made and lay down the parameters for cooperation, which is divided into three parts: political, economic and socio-cultural. Activities in that connection include preventing the eruption of crises, and their management; fostering cooperation; countering terrorism; and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Those issues are inextricably linked with the work of the Security Council given their direct relationship with international peace and security.

We view today's meeting as important given that it represents a point of contact between the Security Council and regional organizations, including, of course, the League of Arab States, in the light of the developments under way in the Arab region, which involve radical processes of transformation led by Arab youth aspiring to build institutions based on good governance, social equality and justice.

The Security Council meeting attended by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on 26 September 2012 (see S/PV.6841), at which the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/20) aimed at consolidating cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations in the field of international peace and security, emphasized the goals of cooperation between the two organizations. It welcomed the intensifying cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations in the wake of developments in the region reflecting the legitimate aspirations of all peoples in the region for freedom, justice and equality. It also emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation on capacity-building with the League of Arab States in the maintenance of international peace and security.

At that same meeting, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States put forward a number of proposals aimed at consolidating the relationship between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. I would recall that the first and most important of those proposals concerned the review and updating of the 1989 agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (General Assembly resolution 44/7), to keep up with priorities and emerging and future challenges.

Secondly, the Secretary-General emphasized the need to hold regular meetings, as well as meetings required by events, between the Security Council and the League of Arab States, represented by the presidency of the Arab Summit Conference, the presidency of the Council of Ministers of the League, and the Secretary-General of the League.

Thirdly, he stressed that the status of the cooperation meetings held between the United Nations and the League of Arab States must be enhanced so as to enable them to deliver programmes which are effective, particularly with regard to preventing and resolving disputes and peacekeeping, so that the League can cooperate in an integrated manner with the United Nations.

Fourthly, he noted that greater importance must be attached to cooperation between the two organizations in the field of humanitarian assistance as well as to devoting greater attention to addressing and alleviating the suffering of refugees and those adversely affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

And fifthly, emphasis was placed on the need to support the capacities of the League of Arab States and increase its competence in the humanitarian and political fields, taking into consideration the work of the United Nations Development Programme.

Almost one year has passed since that meeting between the Council and the League of Arab States. The Secretary-General of the League sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 17 October 2012 containing suggestions on matters relating to cooperation support. One of those suggestions involved the setting up of a joint, high-level working group between the United Nations and the League to evaluate and update the cooperation machinery so as to make it more relevant to current events. The Secretary-General of the United Nations agreed to that in his letter to the Secretary-General of the League dated 12 February 2013, suggesting that the working group could complete its work and consider the three aspects of the issue — political, economic and sociocultural — in the course of three months as well as assess the effectiveness of the cooperation machinery, including a review of the 1989 agreement. That is an important and positive step towards supporting the work of the two organizations.

Emphasizing our interest in cooperation with the United Nations in resolving the Syrian crisis and beginning a transitional phase to stop the bloodshed and achieve stability and security in Syria on the basis of good governance and a democratic system, the Secretary-General of the League held a number of meetings at United Nations Headquarters on 22 April, the first of which was with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He also held tripartite talks with the Secretary-General and Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi on helping the Syrian parties to initiate a transitional political process designed to create a new Syria where all factions will enjoy freedom.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations appealed to the Security Council to be united and to emphasize its support for the efforts of Mr. Brahimi, an appeal that was approved by the Secretary-General of the League. We hope that this will pave the way for "Geneva II".

Along those same lines, I participated, in my capacity as Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, in an informal high-level meeting held under the sponsorship of Germany and Morocco on 28 May 2013 to consider the issue of cooperation between the two organizations. The meeting considered political issues and the work of the Security Council and regional organizations in addressing matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, finding peaceful solutions to conflicts, updating the cooperation machinery, strengthening the capacities of the League and drawing lessons from the experience of the United Nations in the field of cooperation with other regional and international organizations. During the course of that meeting, I emphasized the need for political will in connection with issues relevant to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I also stressed the importance of the activities and programmes adopted in Vienna, to which I have just referred, particularly since that series of political undertakings and programmes addresses a number of significant issues, such as preventing the eruption of crises. I would like here to recall the ideas put forward at that meeting.

First, there is a need to upgrade the level of meetings on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. Such meetings should devise effective programmes, particularly as concerns the eruption of crises and the maintenance of international peace and security, so that the cooperation machinery of the two organizations can work in concert. Increased attention must be paid to cooperation between the two organizations in the field of humanitarian assistance and in connection with issues related to refugees and to persons affected by war, conflict and natural disasters, as well as in the areas of peacebuilding and in assisting

States in the post-conflict rebuilding of their civil institutions and capacities.

I would like to add that a meeting was held in Cairo, on 11 and 12 June, on sectoral cooperation between the League and the United Nations with regard to improving post-conflict civilian capacity-building, with the participation of Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Special Adviser and Assistant Secretary-General for Civilian Capacities.

The League of Arab States, in cooperation with the United Nations, has decided to address this issue in the framework of a comprehensive vision and plans to take action on three integrated and parallel pillars. The first pillar is the exchange of expertise, the identification of needs and the creation of frameworks for the provision of services to the States of the region. The second pillar is interaction with the States of the region to motivate them to build their capacities and identify their needs so that they can assume the primary role in preventing crises. The third and last pillar is the work of the League of Arab States in cooperating with civil society and its general organizations in the areas of security and regional development in order to galvanize and strengthen their role in the aftermath of conflict with a view to assisting local communities, supporting the rule of law and effective accountability, and ensuring other urgent requirements to prevent the resurgence of conflict.

We welcome the issuance of presidential statement S/PRST/2013/12 by the Security Council, which incorporates the means and ways of cooperation among the Security Council and all regional organizations and specifies the most important areas in light of current international regional developments. For our part, the League of Arab State will consider the statement to be one the key documents on which we rely with a view to improving and reinforcing cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Security Council.

In conclusion, I sincerely thank you, Madam President, for the continued cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States in the promotion of peace, security and development in our region and the world.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Carrera (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank you, Madam President, and your delegation for organizing this timely debate and for honouring us with your personal participation this morning. In particular, I would like to extend to you the warm and fraternal greetings of our President, Mr. Otto Pérez Molina, who has asked me to reiterate his admiration for your national and regional leadership, which honours your country, Latin America and the women of the world. The long, deep and fraternal relations between our peoples and Governments have been further strengthened by Argentina and Guatemala in 2013 by the Latin American and Caribbean presence in the Security Council, where we share strong commonalities in our actions aimed at maintaining international peace and security.

We also appreciate the presence this morning of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the representatives of regional and subregional organizations from all parts of the globe. I also welcome Ambassador Samantha Power, whom we know to be committed to human rights and humanitarian law, and who has written books on Sérgio Vieira de Mello, a Brazilian and Latin American hero in the fight for human rights and international multilateralism. I thank Ambassador Power very much for her presence.

I come from a country, Guatemala, and a subregion, Central America, that have accumulated more than 60 years of successful experience in the realm of intraregional cooperation, driven by common multilateral organizations. The degree of economic interdependence among the countries of the Central American Common Market and the Central American Integration System is high in terms of trade and reciprocal investment, and the ever wider and greater integration of our markets and societies. In addition, we have adopted a culture of intraregional cooperation aimed at resolving common problems through joint action, supported by a web of institutions and intergovernmental mechanisms. One manifestation of that network is the daily communications between our Heads of State and other senior officials.

In addition, having overcome the internal conflicts that affected our Central American region so adversely in the 1970s and 1980s, the emphasis today is on spurring our economic and social development. Not only do we consider our region's peace to be an irreversible achievement, but the many affinities and common interests between the countries of our subregion have also contributed to strengthening respect for the principle of resolving all conflicts or misunderstandings among us by peaceful means, with priority given to diplomatic-political dialogue.

I would further add that our culture of intraregional cooperation extends to our entire region of Latin America and the Caribbean. It should be recalled that the so-called Contadora Group, which eventually became the Rio Group and today inspires the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, was born of the interest of brotherly neighbouring countries in resolving Central American conflicts themselves.

Latin America, together with the United Nations, contributed significantly to the establishment and maintenance of peacekeeping missions that supported El Salvador and my country in their return to the institutional and democratic path. At present, as we all know, the only specific item on the Council's agenda concerning our region, which enjoys the extraordinary support of Latin America and the Caribbean, concerns the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, in which several Latin American countries and my own country have the honour of participating with our troops.

The fact that our region is no longer a threat to international peace and security does not mean that we are absent from the indispensable activities of the Council at the international level. In that respect, since we became a member, we have supported, as a general objective, cooperation between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations, each in its respective purview and based on their comparative advantages. The long and fruitful association between the Council and the African Union, which has even given rise to joint efforts in peacekeeping, has provided tangible and valuable benefits. Those benefits are being reproduced at the subregional level by organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Southern African Development Community, as well as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The same is happening in the Middle East, where the Council has collaborated with the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council on some matters.

Naturally, the content and scope of the partnerships of the Council with other organizations will vary from one situation to the next, and could even vary over time in the same situation, depending on changing circumstances. Our general position of support for this type of partnership is nuanced by the acknowledgment that there are no universally valid formulas in this matter. Rather, the exact characteristics of the partnerships must be defined on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, it must be recognized that those partnerships are not always exempt from difficulties, which normally arise either from differences with regard to the territorial issues of the parties or from different criteria with regard to the course of action to be followed. When there is no mechanism to reconcile those differences through dialogue and understanding, they can become serious obstacles to the proper functioning of joint activity. That suggests that there is a need to reconcile decisions taken by regional organizations with those adopted by the United Nations, including those of the Security Council, in light of the provisions of Article 103 of the Charter of the United Nations.

What is clear, in light of the experience of history, is that regional and global efforts must acknowledge that the overcoming of conflicts and the path to sustainable peace depend on a joint endeavour intertwining the agendas of security, justice, the respect for human rights and sustainable development. In each of those areas, there are diverse strengths and complementarities among the United Nations and regional organizations, and the acknowledgment of those strengths and complementarities will open a distinct and fruitful space for institutional cooperation at the multilateral level among regional and global entities.

The twenty-first century is giving rise to increasingly stronger and more responsible regional institutions. The United Nations, in particular the Security Council, should be pleased with that trend. It reflects a slow but definite transition from the post-war world, which gave birth to the Council, towards a multipolar world where dialogue and peace are increasingly urgent and basic in order to preserve the planet and the life on it, maintain human development and overcome poverty. That is in addition to the need to preserve peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect and face the common challenges that threaten peace and security at the global level. Regional organizations are called upon to be active partners in this multipolar world by shouldering their responsibilities vis-à-vis the international community to ensure peace and sustainable development, thus complementing the efforts made though the United Nations. This is a world with more shared responsibilities, and therefore greater demands on international cooperation — a world that is more interconnected, not a fragmented one.

I would like to conclude my statement by thanking you, Madam President, for the informative concept note circulated by your delegation (S/2013/446, annex), which helps guide today's debate. I am also pleased to express our full support for the presidential statement that was adopted today (S/PRST/2013/12), which reflects the content of our deliberations.

Mr. Mammadyarov (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the Argentine Republic, Her Excellency Ms. Cristina Fernández, for presiding over this meeting on the very important and timely topic of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We are also grateful to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the representatives of the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations for their briefings. I would also like to join others in congratulating the new United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ms. Samantha Power. I hope that her first day will go very smoothly, just as the other four years she will be here.

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States Members conferred upon the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agreed that, in carrying out its duties under that responsibility, the Council acts on their behalf. At the same time, Chapter VIII of the Charter encourages cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Since the 2005 World Summit and the adoption of resolution 1631 (2005), important progress has been achieved in enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional partners across a full range of areas, from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights. Indeed, in a number of instances, the relevant regional organizations have proven to be indispensable mechanisms for promoting international and regional peace, security and cooperation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. I would like to refer to some such examples.

Over the past decade, the role of the African Union has increased significantly. There is no doubt that the challenges that Africa faces today and that are the subject of a considerable part of the Security Council's deliberations can be better addressed through collective political and diplomatic efforts. In that regard, we welcome the progress achieved in developing the strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security.

The League of Arab States has also proved to be one of those regional organizations that is able to take the lead in promoting peace, security and stability in the region. We are pleased to see that cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States has been instrumental in carrying out important tasks in such areas as conflict prevention and resolution, crisis response and management, and the fight against terrorism and organized crime. We are confident that continued engagement by the United Nations and the League of Arab States, together with strengthened cooperation between them, will effectively contribute to peace and security in the region.

As a member of the Security Council and an observer to the African Union and the League of Arab States, Azerbaijan will further support the development of partnership relations between those regional organizations and the United Nations.

We also note the activities of new subregional organizations such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations, and we welcome their presence at this meeting and their contribution to our discussion.

Furthermore, the increasing role of organizations formed on the basis of the shared cultural and linguistic values of their member States, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States, gives rise to the need to explore opportunities and appropriate approaches to better serve the purpose of enhancing interaction and cooperation between those organizations and the United Nations across a broad agenda of mutual interests and concerns.

At the same time, we should admit that serious challenges remain. While regional organizations are normally well positioned to understand the causes of armed conflicts, owing to their knowledge of the region, it is obvious that not all of them can boast the ability, political will and institutional capacity to ensure compliance by member States with their statutory commitments.

First and foremost, it is crucial that all Member States adhere to their obligations as laid out in the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States. We express our concern at the attempts undertaken in some situations of armed conflict to misinterpret the norms and principles of international law and downplay the relevance of Security Council resolutions. It is therefore important that, at our meeting today, the Council has stressed the importance of a coordinated international response to causes of conflict and called on the international community, including United Nations organs and agencies, to assist with efforts at the regional level aimed at the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention and resolution of conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Council has also stressed that regional partners must at all times keep it informed of their activities in the area of peace and security. As a matter of priority, special attention should be given to the implementation of Security Council resolutions, in particular those related to the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts.

It is also essential, when dealing with conflict and post-conflict situations, that the relevant organizations and entities ensure that peace and justice are both present in a mutually reinforcing manner. Such an approach ensures that no peace settlement is reached that is inconsistent with international law. That understanding is particularly important, as it would provide guidance not only for the parties to the conflict but also for the international community as a whole and, when appropriate, mediation efforts undertaken at the regional level.

In the presidential statement just adopted (S/PRST/2013/12), the Security Council emphasizes that ending impunity is essential in a conflict and post-conflict society's efforts to come to terms with past wrongs and that regional and subregional organizations should contribute to individual accountability. As a country that is itself suffering from the occupation and large-scale ethnic cleansing of a significant part of its territory, Azerbaijan strongly supports that approach in working to address protracted conflicts and their humanitarian and human rights consequences in different parts of the world.

In conclusion, I would like once again to thank Argentina for convening this important meeting and to welcome the adoption of the presidential statement as its outcome. We also wish the delegation of Argentina a successful presidency in August.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): Allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, on having assumed the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August. We have no doubt that it will be a successful month, and Rwanda pledges to work with you. Allow me to also congratulate you and your delegation for organizing this important open debate. Your presence here demonstrates your sincere commitment to peace and security on our planet and the value you attach to the role of national, regional and subregional organizations in that regard.

I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his presence here and for the willingness he has shown to engage with regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union (AU) and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), of which Rwanda is a member. I extend my greetings and welcome to the representatives of the various regional and subregional organizations who are here with us this morning. And I would like to take this opportunity to welcome my colleague Ambassador Samantha Power of the United States, whom I look forward to working with.

I fully endorse the statement made by Ambassador Tekeda Alemu of Ethiopia on behalf of the Chairperson of the AU, and I would now like to make a few comments in my national capacity.

This debate is an opportunity for us to exchange views and focus on how to strengthen cooperation in maintaining international peace and security. We believe that while primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security is vested in the Security Council, the evolving nature of conflicts and threats to peace and security around the world necessitates partnership with regional and subregional organizations for reasons such as geographic proximity, expediency and burden-sharing.

It is indeed true that regional and subregional organizations have a significant contribution to make. Experience has shown that regional organizations have advantages of local knowledge, proximity and the ability to mobilize and respond quickly that often surpass the bureaucratic and procedural processes typical of United Nations interventions maintaining peace and security around the world. For instance, on the African continent, the United Nations and the African Union have cooperated on several initiatives, notably the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia. And the Economic Community of West African States has exercised irreplaceable leadership in support of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. Convincing evidence of regional organizations' contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security has also been strongly manifest in the joint efforts of the African Union and the United Nations in Burundi, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Sudan and, more recently, in Mali.

Furthermore, the AU, the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community have cooperated as guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. The ICGLR in particular was established in recognition of the fact that political instability and conflicts in its member States have a considerable regional dimension and thus require a concerted effort. That subregional organization has been a major driving force in the quest for peace and security in the region. We commend its growing and important role there, and the steps it has taken to confront the challenges that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo poses for the region and the international community.

Outside the African continent, we should recall the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cambodia and that of the Organization of American States in Haiti and Nicaragua, as well as between Honduras and El Salvador. Although the Security Council was responsible for arriving at a final settlement in most of those conflicts, the contributions of both organizations were remarkable, and helped to make the case for a greater role for regional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

It should be noted, however, that despite those significant developments, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations has yet to reach its full potential and should be substantially streamlined. We encourage the Security Council to engage with such organizations and to regularly take the position of the African Union and its regional economic communities into consideration. We therefore urge the Council to continue desk-to-desk dialogues on issues of mutual interest, and to increase consultations with regional and subregional organizations on how to take that partnership forward in a mutual and beneficial manner. We believe that promoting cooperation between such bodies will enhance complementarity and lead to effective coordination, while at the same time minimizing duplication of efforts.

Mutual respect and open communication are the foundation of any successful and productive partnership, especially in the case of complex joint endeavours such as United Nations-authorized military interventions, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction activities. We believe that efforts to improve strategic cooperation should emphasize ways whereby the Council can interact more regularly and substantively with the executive representatives of those organizations on matters that are directly linked to peace and security in their jurisdictions.

In that regard, Rwanda looks forward to the annual consultative meeting, scheduled for later this year, between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. In its capacity as Chair of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, Rwanda will also ensure that the Group is involved in the preparations and follow-up for this meeting, in accordance with paragraph 18 of resolution 2033 (2012). As has been to some extent the case with the AU, the Council should consider extending that practice to other regional organizations and holding periodic meetings with their representatives for discussing areas of common interest. Such a practice would be an important step forward and might produce other innovative ways to intervene.

I should not, however, underestimate the challenges related to financial resources and technical capacity that often compromise the goals and ambitions of regional and subregional organizations. My delegation will reiterate its call for enhancing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations' peace- and security-related efforts. It is our view that they should be encouraged to assume ownership of their initiatives as much as possible and to strive for self-reliance. As a partner, the United Nations should seek to actively assist such organizations in capacity-building. The announcement by African leaders in June that they will be establishing a rapid reaction force, fully funded by African countries themselves, is a good step in the direction of self-reliance.

Furthermore, regional organizations have a great deal of expertise to share with member States and one another, including in the areas of electoral supervision, security sector reform, law enforcement, border control and so on. In the spirit of South-South cooperation, such best practices could be communicated more systematically between regions and between countries. Rwanda has been partnering with the United Nations and regional organizations and member States wishing to share its best practices, including those relating to high-level police expertise with Somalia, Liberia and Mali; and we stand ready to do so in the future.

In conclusion, I should stress that although significant progress has been made in improving mutual cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, it cannot hide the fact that much remains to be done. It is important to take that partnership forward, based on a solid strategic platform that takes into account the comparative advantages of regional organizations, recognizing that the complexity of today's conflicts means that no single organization can effectively address them on their own.

Ms. Power (United States of America): Thank you, Madam President, for convening this important debate on United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. I also thank you, Madam President, Foreign Minister Carrera, Foreign Minister Mammadyarov and Ambassador Gasana and all of my colleagues here, who have welcomed me so warmly today. I am most honoured to be in the Chamber for the first time representing the United States in the Security Council, and I am especially honoured to sit here among so many distinguished Ministers, colleagues and guests. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Union of South American Nations for their briefings.

Their comments provide a glimpse into the critical, essential contribution that regional organizations make to global peace and stability. The United States believes that regional organizations can be invaluable partners for the Council as it carries out its unique responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. That is why we in the Obama Administration have intensified our engagement with regional organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of American States, the African Union, and the League of Arab States.

Anchored in their regions, such organizations have a keen understanding of the political, social and historical contexts that can drive conflicts there and can help prevent them. Regional organizations can leverage local knowledge, relationships and resources to mitigate and, hopefully, end conflict, as well as support post-conflict recovery and stabilization efforts. Because instability in one State can and often does adversely impact its neighbours, regional organizations have a compelling interest and sense of urgency in addressing conflicts in their neighbourhood. Preventing conflict often depends upon early action to diffuse internal and cross-border tensions, protect civilians and halt mass atrocities. Regional organizations are essential to such efforts, and, as we saw in Libya, the League of Arab States was among the first to sound the alarm that Al-Qadhafi's regime was on the verge of killing thousands of his own people. The League's call helped galvanize the Council to take decisive action to protect civilians and give the Libyan people the chance to shape their own future, free of oppression.

The United Nations strong partnership with the African Union has been vital to stabilizing the volatile relationship between the Sudan and South Sudan and has helped prevent another outbreak of war. The Security Council, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei have provided critical political and material support to the AU as it continues to seek solutions to the difficult disputes that divide the Sudan and South Sudan. They have contributed great creativity and perseverance. Despite our best efforts, however, prevention sometimes fails and conflict rages. In those cases, too, regional organizations play an essential role.

As the twin governance and security crises threaten the stability and unity of Mali, the Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS) helped broker a political deal that culminated in the signing of an important peace agreement in June and nationwide presidential elections just last month. African Union and ECOWAS troops formed the nucleus of the United Nations newest peacekeeping mission. Continued cooperation among ECOWAS, the AU and the United Nations will be vital to ensuring that the security and constitutional order are fully restored in Mali. That coordinated action serves as a good example of how the United Nations and regional organizations complement each other and underscores the value of offices like that of the United Nations Office for West Africa, where the Special Representative of the Secretary-General's productive partnership with ECOWAS serves to facilitate regional and subregional approaches to addressing the cross-cutting threats to peace and security across the region.

Cooperation between regional and United Nations efforts in the field is essential to success. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) has begun vigorous outreach to the African Union to create a dynamic, UNSOM-AU partnership that can bring peace and stability to Somalia.

Finally, regional organizations help States and people recover from conflicts and other crises. The Security Council last met to discuss cooperation with regional organizations on 13 January 2010 (see S/PV.6257). That was just one day after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti. Speakers that day voiced profound sorrow at Haiti's loss, yet expressed hope that the international community would pull together to help Haiti recover. Today we can see that United Nations and regionally led efforts have made a major difference for Haiti and its people. The Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community led a joint observer mission to monitor Haiti's post-earthquake elections, which helped ensure a credible democratic outcome, while the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) worked with the Government of Haiti to ensure security throughout the election period. The United States applauds States around the region, including many represented in the Chamber, for the essential support they give to Haiti by contributing troops to MINUSTAH, providing development assistance and helping build Haitian capacity.

While United Nations cooperation with regional organizations will remain important, we must also be clear-eyed about its limits. Although the League of Arab States has been at the forefront of pushing for a political transition in Syria, well-known divisions have prevented the Council from supporting that effort. Moreover, as the Council continues its cooperation with regional and subregional groups in order to fulfil its core mandate to maintain international peace and security, we must remember that collaboration needs to be based on the facts of the crisis at hand, and solutions need to be agreed on and pursued together.

As we look to the future, the United States will continue to support and strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and its regional partners, and we will look to leverage the valuable capabilities that regional and subregional organizations can contribute to our shared goal of building a more peaceful, just and secure world.

Mr. Amrani (Morocco) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to welcome you, Madam President. We also wish to express our gratitude to the delegation of Argentina for convening this debate on a topic of utmost importance, not only for all Latin American countries — we note and welcome the presence of many Foreign Ministers of Latin America — but also for all the African countries represented in the Council today. In that connection, I would like to express our appreciation for the briefings given by so many distinguished persons from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union, who have given us insights into this important topic. We welcome also the presence and contribution of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Before I go on with my statement, may I offer Ambassador Samatha Power of the United States our congratulations. We assure Ms. Power our fullest cooperation in working in the Security Council and within the United Nations.

Today's topic coincides with other recent efforts by the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations aimed at strengthening alliances between such organizations in order to confront the challenges to peace and international security and deal with crisis situations of many types that destabilize entire regions and impact millions of people.

Morocco attaches particular importance to the role of regional and subregional organizations and their cooperation with the United Nations, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and in keeping with the parameters established under the relevant Security Council resolutions. In the light of their firm commitment to peace, development and the respect for human rights, some organizations have become major actors in working with the United Nations. Since Morocco became a Member State, our country has consistently contributed to the achievement of the aims and principles of the Organization, whether in peacekeeping or in international security, and in promoting cooperation for development, which are two sides of the same coin.

Morocco is also a founding member of the African Union and considers the stability and development of the African continent to lie at the forefront of its foreign policy priorities. On the basis of that long-standing international commitment, Morocco is now participating in and seeking to step up cooperation between the United Nations and the African continent with full respect for the specifications defined by individual Member States. In that context, my country has participated in international and regional endeavours to settle numerous disputes in Africa and in various countries around the world.

It is in that same conviction that Morocco has also supported the democratic processes that are taking place in various countries. Morocco, an African country with a long-standing tradition of solidarity with and commitment to our African neighbours, has undertaken to support all United Nations efforts aimed at enhancing the security and stability of countries throughout Africa. We also stand ready to actively participate in any endeavour aimed at meeting those challenges.

It cannot be denied that regional organizations and arrangements play a major role in achieving regional and continental aspirations. We have closely followed everything that has been done in Latin America, in the Union of South American Nations and in the Andean Community, and we commend the approaches taken there. We are now doing similar things in our continent, Africa. In particular, we would emphasize the efforts being deployed by the Gulf Cooperation Council, with which Morocco has a strategic partnership for the resolution of crises, like the one in Yemen, for example. We have also worked hand in hand with other members of this Council to seek the resolution of the conflict in Mali through a regional approach spearheaded by such African regional organizations as the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States.

With that same goal in mind, we are now also working to build the Arab Maghreb Union, which is a priority for my country and which will contribute to the stability and prosperity of the five member countries of that organization. Developing our ambitions for the Maghreb remains a priority for Morocco, since that will lead to sustainable development and solidarity, both for the countries of the Maghreb and for countries of the broader region.

Recent events in Mali require that the countries of the Maghreb and the Sahel and their partners step up cooperation in order to deal not only with security challenges, which are extensive, but also with the democratic challenges and the challenges of economic development. The phenomenon of insecurity calls for major efforts at coordination and cooperation to be undertaken today, with a view to promoting an inclusive security approach of a preventive, concerted, multidimensional nature that incorporates all aspects of economic and social development. We thus commend the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel recently adopted by the Security Council.

I will not dwell further on the aforementioned matters except to say that in Africa today we have the required major instruments and tools, such as the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, which is working to promote prosperity in the region.

I would also wish to praise the cooperation that exists between the League of Arab States and the United Nations. In order to strengthen that cooperation, we worked with the German presidency of the Council in September 2012 to bring about the adoption of a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/20), which led subsequently to the holding of a seminar. We hope that closer relations and enhanced cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations will contribute to the success of the ongoing efforts on the part of the United States Administration to promote the conclusion of final agreements on a two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, consistent with the strategic objective of the Arab Peace Initiative.

In conclusion, at a time when the United Nations is seeking to enhance its partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, I would like to say that, in order to promote international peace and security, we must take into account the following six elements. First, we must clearly understand and have a clear vision of and respect for the provisions of the United Nations Charter and of the charters of the various regional and subregional organizations. Secondly, we must duly take into account the principal responsibility conferred on the Security Council to ensure international peace and security. Thirdly, we must undertake assessments that could help to avoid duplications that might hamper or delay the solution of any conflict or dispute. Fourthly, the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations must adopt a conflict and dispute prevention strategy. Fifthly, we must resolve the root causes of conflict and combat any trends that could lead to the instability resulting from terrorism. In that regard, the United Nations and all Member States are called upon and invited to step up their support for efforts to achieve sustainable development and contribute to the success of reform, democratic change and good governance. Lastly, where the intervention of more than one regional organization is required, experience has shown that it is of prime importance to ensure that those organizations coordinate their activities so as to avoid duplication. It is important not only for development but also in the interest of fostering and promoting interregional cooperation and cooperation between subregional organizations in order to enhance the complementarity of efforts and to place all capacities in the service of peace.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I thank the President for Argentina's initiative in convening today's important debate and for her presence here today. I also thank the Secretary-General and today's briefers and welcome Ambassador Power.

To understand the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, we need only look to situations currently on the Council's agenda — Somalia, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo — all of which involve essential cooperation between the United Nations and such organizations.

From Australia's experience in our own region — the Asia-Pacific — we understand implicitly the comparative advantage that regional organizations can bring to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and we fully subscribe to the complementarity of the roles that regional organizations and the United Nations play in addressing threats to peace and security. In 2011, we saw the successful response on the part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to tensions on the Thailand-Cambodia border, a commendable regional approach designed to de-escalate a potentially serious dispute. Last month, we in Pacific celebrated the tenth anniversary of the successful regional assistance mission to Solomon Islands, to which each of the 16 members of the Pacific Islands Forum contributed and which has been decisive in the recovery of Solomon Islands from conflict.

The role of regional organizations was of course set out 68 years ago in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, but they are playing an increasingly instrumental role in a much more complex environment and have enhanced their engagement with the United Nations by necessity. We have seen this most clearly with the African Union (AU) and African subregional organizations. The United Nations retains primacy, but, as Ambassador Tekeda Alemu said this morning, speaking for the AU, the United Nations needs a strong AU and the AU needs a strong United Nations. The trajectory of cooperation will only continue.

I would like to briefly focus on three issues that we believe are central to this partnership.

First is the need for respective roles to be based on comparative advantages that are distinct and understood. The Council will have its most fruitful engagement with organizations that have the mandate and capacity to work on international peace and security issues. For example, as the Pacific responded to the crisis in Solomon Islands, the fact that the Pacific Islands Forum already had in place the Biketawa Declaration of 2000, which set out a clear framework for a collective response to regional crises, was instrumental.

The comparative advantages of regional and subregional organizations are clear, and others have already mentioned them this morning. They include deeper knowledge of context, cultural understanding, an inherent political interest in staying the course, and geographic proximity. These factors all contributed to success in Solomon Islands.

The benefit of playing to comparative advantage is clearly applicable to some current major challenges. In Somalia, the AU has a comparative advantage in peace operations, while the United Nations, through the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, brings critical skills to post-conflict stabilization and governance. In the Sudans, the AU plays a central mediation role, seeking to de-escalate tensions and keeping the parties talking, which the United Nations peacekeeping operations support in various ways. The important point is that each organization plays to its relative strengths.

The second area to focus on is in strengthening dialogue, exchange and capacity-building. This is obviously vital to enhancing coordination and ensuring that organizations at all levels benefit from best practices. The United Nations has extensive experience in peacekeeping best practices; as these evolve, they should be conveyed to relevant regional organizations. Again, the United Nations dialogue, exchange and capacity-building are most structured and advanced with the AU as its own architecture has evolved to meet the peace and security challenges on the continent. This cooperation can point us to practices that may be relevant to other regional organizations — recognizing, of course, that one size does not fit all. This exchange must be a two-way street; there is much the United Nations can learn from regional and subregional organizations.

The third area is partnerships on thematic, human rights and humanitarian issues. The Council has recognized the key role regional and subregional organizations play in affirming the role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and humanitarian response; ensuring the protection of children affected by armed conflict; and ensuring that the protection of civilians is central to peacekeeping efforts. The presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2013/12) embraces, as it must, close cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on these three thematic issues.

We also welcome the Council's recognition in the statement that regional organizations have a crucial role in addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. This is an issue on which many regions have pressed for collective action. It is important to see the Council encouraging, in return, regional organizations to strengthen their collective response.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is, as we know, complex and evolving. There will be ongoing challenges. In his Supplement to An Agenda for Peace 20 years ago, Boutros Boutros-Ghali recognized that the political, operational and financial aspects of cooperation "gives rise to questions of some delicacy" (*S/1995/1, para. 86 (d)*). That is usually the case, but it must never, ever deter us.

Resourcing is one such issue. When the Council authorizes regional organizations to undertake peacekeeping operations, we must do all we can to ensure that they are appropriately resourced for the jobs we are asking them to do. The Council must continue to develop the framework to ensure that the United Nations partnerships with regional organisations are effective, and we believe that the presidential statement adopted today is an important contribution in that regard.

In concluding, I would like to thank the regional and subregional organizations, including those represented here, for their growing and valuable work towards international peace and security and our shared goals, as enunciated in the United Nations Charter. As the Secretary-General said this morning, it is the combined value of our efforts that can be decisive.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I wish to thank the Argentine presidency for having organized this open debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. The presence of President Fernández and the participation of many ministers bear witness to the importance of the subject we are discussing today. I thank the Secretary-General and representatives of the Union of South American Nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the African Union and the League of Arab States for their edifying opening statements.

Luxembourg fully subscribes to the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

The Security Council has rightly recognized the role and contribution of regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. It is clear that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is not only desirable but also necessary.

Luxembourg welcomes the long-standing cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union. This cooperation now covers the entire spectrum of response to international crises, from immediate crisis response, humanitarian action, peacekeeping and peacebuilding to development beyond the European continent. The synergies between the United Nations and the European Union in the theatre of operations where they work side by side are significant, whether in Kosovo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia or now in Mali.

It is also on the African continent that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is the most developed. Whether it is to finally pacify the Darfur region of the Sudan or to normalize relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union are working hand in hand. We attach importance in this regard to the Security Council's ongoing strong support for the mediation undertaken by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel.

On 1 July, the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali was the culmination of a close and fruitful cooperation between the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations. The combined efforts of these organizations have contributed to stabilizing the political and security situation in Mali and opened the way for the holding, on 28 July, of the first round of the presidential election that is to conclude the political transition in the country.

On the other side of the continent, in Somalia, the combined efforts of the United Nations and the African Union have opened a new page in the history of that country. With the African Union Mission in Somalia, significant territorial gains have been made over the past 12 months. Since 3 June, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia has provided integrated support to Somalia while strengthening the strategic partnership and collaboration with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in all areas related to the consolidation of peace. In this context, we look forward to the results of the upcoming joint review of AMISOM. We welcome the intention of the African Union to work closely with the Secretariat in the context of that review.

We hope that the same fruitful cooperation will soon be established between the United Nations and the African Union to resolve the crisis in the Central African Republic, following the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to create an African-led international mission support to that country.

Before I conclude — while much more could, of course, still be said with regard to the importance of United Nations cooperation with other regional organizations, in particular the League of Arab States — allow me to address a topic that is close to our heart, that is, the protection of children in armed conflict. The contribution of regional and subregional organizations and agreements to the protection of children affected by armed conflict is undeniable, with the regional cooperation initiative led by the African Union against the Lord's Resistance Army being a good illustration.

In general, the increasing involvement of regional organizations in peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions poses challenges for child protection, in particular with regard to the rules of engagement and the conduct of operations. We therefore welcome the fact that the presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2013/12) reiterates the call made in the 17 June presidential statement on children and armed conflict (S/PRST/2013/8) for regional organizations to include the protection of children in their policies, programmes and planning activities and to assign child-protection specialists to their field missions.

In this area as in others, the United Nations and regional organizations can make a difference by working together in a complementary manner. As a founding Member of the United Nations, the European Union and many regional organizations on the continent of Europe, Luxembourg is a strong supporter of the cause of cooperation and regional integration. The Council can count on us to help to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of peace and security.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We are honoured that the President of the Argentine Republic has presided over this special meeting of the Security Council. We congratulate Argentina on its assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of August, and we appreciate the valuable work being done by Ambassador María Cristina Perceval and her team in leading the Council this month.

We commend the United States for its effective presidency of the Council last month. We warmly welcome to the Council Chamber the new United States Permanent Representative, Ms. Samantha Power, and we look forward to working with her.

We thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing on this important subject.

We listened attentively to the presentations made on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the African Union (AU), the Union of South American Nations and the League of Arab States. We also appreciate the participation of the ministers taking part in today's debate.

It is evident from the briefings this morning that the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations are cooperating more closely than ever before to maintain international peace and security and to prevent, manage and resolve crises. The partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations reinforce collective security, but they also present new problems.

The past year has been good for partnerships. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Great Lakes and the Region was concluded. The Framework, which is supported by 11 countries and four guarantors — the United Nations, the African Union, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community — should usher in peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbourhood. Similarly, the effective cooperation among the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States and Economic Community of Central African States has contributed to the stabilization of the situations in Mali and the Central African Republic.

The United Nations has supported the African Union Mission in Somalia with core deployment, rotations and operational and budgetary support. It has also supported the International Security Assistance Force under the framework of a United Nations mandate, as well as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. The cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations requires a dynamic strategy to address the deficits in troops, equipment and military expertise, as well as predictable and sustainable funding. It also demands close oversight by the Security Council and the harmonization of the approaches of regional organizations and the United Nations.

Regional organizations have unique perspectives and deeper understandings of local conflicts and cultural norms. That knowledge often gives them a comparative advantage in preventing and resolving conflicts. In many cases, they have enormous influence over the parties to a dispute, which tend to place greater trust in regional organizations.

A lot more can be done to consolidate partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations. Every regional organization has a unique historical background, distinct objectives and diverse membership. In formulating strategies for cooperation, the specific characteristics and capacities of each organization should be taken into account. Regional organizations help the Council to avert impending crises by sharing information on a real-time basis. The United Nations should therefore support the early-warning capacity-building of the relevant regional organizations.

Regional organizations should use their full potential to dissuade parties from relying on arms to settle their disputes, and encourage them to use peaceful means.

We call on the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Gulf Cooperation Council to use their extensive links and clout to persuade all sides in Syria to attend the "Geneva II" conference.

As we all know, African issues constitute the bulk of the agenda of the Security Council. Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is an important pivot for the maintenance of international peace and security on the African continent. The United Nations and its partners should continue to address funding and capacity gaps to strengthen the African Union's ability to prevent conflicts under the umbrella of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union.

We applaud the European Union for supporting peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities in Africa by providing substantial funding for United Nations-mandated African Union peace-support operations. We encourage other regional organizations that have the capacity to do so to follow the example of the European Union.

Regional organizations should step up their endeavours to fight transnational crimes such as terrorism, drug trafficking, the proliferation of weapons and piracy. The success of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel depends upon interregional cooperation to combat those threats.

The United Nations has launched robust peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Intervention Brigade must succeed despite the challenges of the terrain, the presence of multiple rebel groups and doctrinal issues, as its performance will have an impact on similar missions and situations and on the conceptual evolution of modern peacekeeping.

The latent issues between the Security Council and regional organizations should be addressed by promoting complementarity. The widely recognized principles of consultation, the primacy of the United Nations, the effective division of labour and consistency of approach should be fully respected. Those are indeed the broad parameters for the evolving interpretations of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Finally, for sustainable peace, the humanitarian role and competencies of regional organizations should be strengthened.

We fully endorse the comprehensive presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/12) finalized under your presidency, Madam President. We also commend your Mission for preparing a very well-structured concept note (S/2013/446, annex).

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): Thank you very much, Madam President, for coming to New York to preside over this debate, as well as for selecting such an important and relevant topic. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the four briefers for their important contributions this morning. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Argentina and Ambassador Perceval on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August, and to warmly welcome our new American colleague, Ambassador Samantha Power, to the United Nations.

The founders of the United Nations wisely created provisions for United Nations cooperation with regional organizations in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, but I doubt that they could have foreseen the range and scope of regional and subregional orgnanizations that have arisen since 1945 and the important role that they have played and are playing in conflict prevention and resolution. Let me provide just four recent examples of effective engagement by regional organizations in conflict prevention.

In Europe, the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina has led to significant progress in relations between Serbia and Kosovo, creating a framework for practical cooperation between the two countries and lowering tensions in a fragile region.

In Yemen in 2011, as the country encountered political instability accompanied by serious violence, the Gulf Cooperation Council played an invaluable role in brokering an agreement that created the framework for a negotiated political transition process, which should lead to a new constitution and elections in 2014.

In South-East Asia, efforts led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2011, under the chairmanship of Indonesia and with the active support of the Security Council, resulted in a cessation of violence along the Thai-Cambodian border.

And in Africa, the patient engagement of President Mbeki and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel has played a major part in managing tensions surrounding implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan and South Sudan. The African Union road map of April 2012 set the template for resolution 2046 (2012), serving as a model for United Nations and African Union cooperation in maintaining international peace and security.

We can draw some useful lessons from these and other examples. They show how regional organizations, whose interests are directly affected by the prospect of instability within the region, can bring a strong sense of urgency and commitment to their engagement. They show how regional organizations can apply detailed knowledge of the social and political issues in play. In some cicumstances, regional organizations may find it easier to be accepted as peacekeepers or mediators by the actors involved, and as the example of Kosovo demonstrates, regional organizations can often make good use of the range of incentives that exist through common ties in the region to encourage a sense of compromise and flexibility.

There are other ways in which regional organizations can help maintain international peace and security. They can play a valuable role as indepenedent election monitors, able to deter abuse of electoral procedures and to validate properly held elections. But with this role comes an important responsibility. In circumstances where there is credible evidence of serious irregularities in the conduct of elections, regional oerganizations that have monitored the elections must be ready to voice these concerns clearly and objectively, unconstrained by diplomatic or regional solidarity.

Regional organizations can also help uphold international peace and security by establishing and upholding standards of democracy and good governance among their members. The African Union's policy of zero tolerance towards military coups and other violations of democratic standards is an important factor in the trend that has seen the widespread establishment of multi-party democracy across the continent in place of military or one-party regimes.

Within the Commonwealth, the readiness of the Ministerial Action Group to take action suspending members from participation in the organization has served to uphold and entrench democratic standards.

I have highlighted positive examples of regional organizations' cooperation with the Unted Nations, but it is also important to discuss difficulties, as well as to highlight successes.

First, some conflict situations will be of relevance to more than one regional organization and the views of the different organizations may differ. In 2011, over Libya for example, the League of Arab States and the African Union arrived at strikingly different positions on the ongoing revolution. In general, the Council is always keen to take account of the views of relevant regional organizations, but that becomes harder when those views are discordant.

Secondly, we have seen circumstances where the views of the relevant regional and subregional organizations are at odds. Again in 2011, this was the case when the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States took different approaches to developments over Côte D'Ivoire, leaving the Council having to assess a diversity of regional and subregional perspectives.

Thirdly, the issue of capacity also needs to be considered in a realistic way. Regional organizations sometimes have the political will but not the practical or financial capacity to take swift action in response to peace and security challenges. On Mali in 2012, we saw the regional and subregional organizations assert their readiness to lead an international response, but this was followed by a long hiatus during which time insurgents steadily expanded their control over parts of the country, requiring French forces to intervene to arrest the mounting crisis.

Equally we in the Council need to look self-critically at our own conduct. We need to acknowledge frankly the occasions, as with Syria, when we have failed to provide an effective response and clear international direction in circumstances where the voice of the relevant regional organization — the League of Arab States — has been clear and forthright in setting out what it expects of us.

So there are lessons to learn, as well as successes to highlight. But the overall trend is clear — towards increasing engagement by regional organizations in conflict-prevention and therefore towards increasing United Nations cooperation with regional organizations. And that is a challenge we must embrace. We should do so in a flexible and creative way. Today's presidential statement (S/2013/PRST/12) and the previous Council products on cooperation with the African Union and the League of Arab States set out valuable guidelines. But we should avoid the temptations to overly codify our relationships or to prioritize establishing a strict theology of institutional cooperation over practical action.

Mr. Lamek (France) (*spoke in French*): Madam President, I would like to thank you for convening today's debate, and to welcome all the ministers and other representatives who spoke before me. I would also like to welcome the new Permanent Representative of the United States, even if my time here at the United Nations has been brief. Finally, I note that France aligns itself fully with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union.

As I was said, I would like to thank you, Madam, for convening this debate since it allows us to consider a key issue of great importance to France — the contribution of regional and subregional organizations to the maintanence of international peace and security and the pomotion of the rule of law.

The severity and number of conflicts in the world require us to resort to all the means at our disposal. In this context, the contribution of regional organizations to maintaining international peace and security is crucial. That contribution is provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and responds to several objectives. It allows regional organizations working under the auspices of the United Nations to enjoy strong political legitimacy. In return, it allows the United Nations to draw on the know-how and operational methods of regional organizations. We have seen a fine example of this in Mali, where cooperation between the United Nations and the relevant regional organizations — the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States — have made it possible for the country to emerge from the recent crisis.

Like some speakers before me, I wish briefly to mention the European Union. The European Union plays a major role within the international community. I recall that peace and security are at the heart of the European project, which arose in the wake of the Second World War, like the United Nations. Among regional organizations, the European Union stands out because of its advanced level of cooperation with the United Nations and other regional organizations. Its operational capacities give it the ability to support diverse activities and to develop institutional mechanisms for funding and participating in peacekeeping missions authorized by the Security Council, and to contribute to crisis prevention and post-conflict stabilizaton. Today, this cooperation extends to all continents.

In order to faciliate peace in Africa, since 2004 the European Union has allocated €740 million in a variety of modalities. It responds to urgent needs through its rapid-response mechanism, and to longer-term needs through peace-support operations that allow for predictable financing. The mechanism has also enabled the European Union to finance the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia since 2007, a good example of cooperation among the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations. The European Union has also contributed significant support to the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali, on the same basis. It also supports strengthening the capacities of the African Union and subregional African organizations.

Similarly, the European Union is coordinating its intervention in Libya with the United Nations through its European Union Border Assistance Mission for border surveillance, just as it works actively with the United Nations in Kosovo. Concerning Georgia, for instance, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations have participated jointly in the discussions in Geneva, and the European Union is financing the confidence-building measures between Abkhazians and Georgians that are being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. Lastly, one of the chief goals that the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States set themselves at their summit in Santiago in February was to contribute actively and jointly to international peace and security.

The role of regional organizations is only going to grow, in response both to the principle of subsidiarity and to the mentality that encourages regional stakeholders to assume responsibility and ownership. France is contributing to that effort through organizations of which it is a member, as well as through its support for the establishment of a regional security architecture. While we should continue our support for that cooperative trend, we must continue to be wary of the danger of a fragmentation of collective security. The Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is still the body with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on behalf of the Members of the United Nations as a whole to that end.

Dialogue between the United Nations and other organizations often raises complex questions resulting from a shortage of resources in the area of troops, for example, but also in equipment, military expertise, civilian know-how and funding; the implementation of predictable and reliable financing; and the issue of the degree of control that the Council can exercise over the operations it authorizes. That should not, however, be seen as an obstacle. On the contrary, it illustrates the vitality of the relations between the United Nations and such organizations. Responding to those issues quickly and effectively is a challenge we should all address.

In conclusion, I would like to touch on one last topic, which is dealt with in the presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2013/12), namely, that your country, Madam President, has decided to highlight the fight against impunity and the historic importance in that regard of the International Criminal Court, the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and the role that regional organizations play in that area, for which we are grateful. That is another demonstration of your country's unwavering commitment to such matters, within the Security Council in particular and the United Nations in general. France knows something about that topic, since our two countries, together with Morocco, promoted within the Organization the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Here we are again, in the Security Council, some of the founding countries of the International Criminal Court, of which your compatriot, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo, was the first Prosecutor. The reference to the International Criminal Court and the fight against impunity in a text on United Nations cooperation with regional organizations is therefore a welcome precedent, for which we are in your debt.

It is also a useful reminder that the principles of justice and the defence of human rights are founding principles for many regional organizations. The European Union and the Organization of American States were built on the rejection of conflict and around the goal of ensuring peace and security, and they have developed basic mechanisms for promoting the rule of law and defending human rights. The principles of the Charter of the African Union enshrine the rejection of impunity and the Union's right to intervene in a country where serious crimes, genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity have been committed. It is high time to recognize the importance of such subjects in the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations for peace and security is therefore a matter of political and operational necessity and must continue, in line with the relevant stipulations and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and under the auspices of the Security Council. It is in that way that we will simultaneously ensure consistency in international action, transparency in United Nations activities and respect for the Organization's values.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are pleased to welcome you, Madam President, to preside over the Security Council. We are grateful to the Argentine delegation for its initiative in holding an open debate in the Council on such a topical issue as United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. The presence in the Chamber of representatives of a number of leading regional organizations testifies to its importance.

The global nature of today's challenges and threats, and the formulation of the collective approaches that are essential to tackling them effectively, requires that cooperation on international peace and security between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations be strengthened. That task consists in ensuring that, with the United Nations in the role of leader, those organizations, harmoniously and without unnecessary bureaucracy, complement one another by making use of their respective comparative advantages. For the United Nations, those advantages are primarily the universality of its membership and activities, along with its universally recognized legitimacy. For their part, regional organizations often have a more nuanced understanding of circumstances in their areas of responsibility, and, in a great many cases, preventive and peacebuilding mechanisms adapted to regional realities. It is nonetheless important that regional organizations' activities be focused on seeking peaceful political solutions to emerging conflict situations, so as to ensure that they are not overly influenced by individual members, who may be pursuing their own agendas.

The Security Council plays a key role in cooperation between the United Nations and regional associations on issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. That has to do first and foremost with its obligatory approval and monitoring of regional and coalition peacekeeping operations where the use of force is authorized. Only the relevant decisions of the Council can lend the necessary international legitimacy to the use of sanctions mechanisms.

Cooperation between this global Organization and its regional partners brings with it a wider set of problems. Along with peacekeeping and peacebuilding tasks come the countervailing forces of proliferating weapons of mass destruction, illegal sources of small arms and light weapons, the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. In the network of traditional United Nations partnerships, the African Union occupies a special place. The broad experience of respectful cooperation that exists between both organizations in various areas is also a helpful guide for other regional organizations in building effective models for collaboration.

There is great potential in the cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. We believe that there are good prospects for broader contact between the United Nations and such rapidly developing organizations as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations.

For our part, we cannot ignore the importance of United Nations cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (STO), which are building their political authority globally and are helping to strengthen regional and international security. We associate ourselves with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the member States of the CSTO and STO by the representative of Kyrgyzstan, the country that currently presides over both organizations. There are prospects for deeper cooperation between the United Nations and the CSTO in the area of peacekeeping. Serious work is being done within the CSTO to develop its own peacekeeping potential, including acting jointly with United Nations peacekeeping operations. At the same time, the CSTO is actively participating in international post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and in neutralizing the threat of drugs coming from that country's territory. The STO is making a serious contribution to stability and security in the Eurasian region, directing its activity to fighting terrorism, separatism and extremism. To that end, it has established a regional antiterrorism body and is developing cooperation on combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking and transnational crime, as well as providing international information security.

We have consistently campaigned for broader and deeper cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, as laid down in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with the aim of promoting our world Organization's worthy goals. In that respect, we feel that, on the one hand, regional and subregional organizations must position themselves more to actualize their own potential in the interests of the United Nations, while on the other hand, the United Nations itself must continue to duly prioritize strengthened coordination and cooperation with such organizations, based on strict compliance with the principles of the universal Organization and its Security Council.

Mr. M'Beou (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Argentine delegation for having organized this open debate and welcome your presence, Madam President, among us as a demonstration of the importance that your country attaches to the subject.

I also thank the Secretary-General and all other speakers for their statements. I welcome Ms. Samantha Powers, the new Permanent Representative of the United States of America, and wish her every success in assuming her new function.

The numerous discussions held on the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations have all indicated that the United Nations is and must remain at the centre of the international collective security mechanism and that, in that context, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

However, the proliferation of increasingly complex and multidimensional conflicts has required the regional and subregional organizations to commit firmly and with greater determination to the prevention and resolution of crises in their respective geographical spheres. Their important role has led to further reflection on the nature and form of cooperation between the world Organization and the regional actors. We believe that such cooperation should not be limited to its traditional context in the maintenance of peace, but that it should go further and focus on finding the causes of conflict and ways to prevent and resolve it, as well as peacebuilding, the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and the fight against impunity for perpetrators of serious violations of human rights. My delegation welcomes the fact that the presidential statement just adopted by the Council (S/PRST/2013/12) stresses the importance of all those issues in the framework of cooperation.

Insofar as these issues are common to all regional and subregional organizations, I will concentrate my remarks on cooperation between the United Nations and African organizations. In that regard, I welcome and fully endorse the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia. However, I would first like to acknowledge the important role played by all regional and subregional organizations throughout the world in the struggle to maintain international peace and security.

In Africa, the main factor in the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union (AU) was the creation of the African peace and security architecture, under which the continental organization, in cooperation with the regional economic communities, gradually assumed responsibility for the maintenance of security on the continent, thereby affirming its role as a major partner of the United Nations. In that context, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has played a key role in the maintenance of peace. It has long been responsible for its own fate by intervening in Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and recently in Mali in order to restore peace before receiving international support.

Togo welcomes the development in recent years of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union based on the spirit of subsidiarityy and the accountability of regional actors, as recently manifested in the joint efforts to combat the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, and especially the support provided by the United Nations to the African Union Mission in Somalia.

The positive momentum of that cooperation must continue to strengthen. The creation 10 years ago of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the active cooperation with subregional organizations such as ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to settle ongoing crises in West and Central Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region form part of such positive action.

However, we believe it essential to further clarify the relationship between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in order to better define their respective responsibilities and to allow both organizations to benefit from their respective advantages in the spirit of resolution 1631 (2005). That will assist in, inter alia, avoiding the frustrations and misunderstandings that sometimes arise due to differences in strategies or solutions between the two organizations.

One advantage of their regional and subregional experience and expertise is that the organizations are often more quickly informed about evolving situations that could lead to conflict. The United Nations, particularly the Security Council, should therefore strengthen ties with those organizations with a view to responding faster and protecting people in danger. An acceptable relationship must be found between the willingness of those organizations to assume the task of conflict management, or at the least to provide leadership, and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, as those organizations are in the best position to assess the most appropriate approach to conflicts in their region. In any event, there should be no conflict of responsibility or procrastination in the actions to be taken when people's lives are at stake and when the State's capacity to protect them is lacking.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations should prioritize the critical issue of the financing of peacekeeping operations, which has always been a major challenge to regional organizations in assuming the responsibility of security in their regions. The United Nations and its institutional partners must continue to promote the greater diversification and sustainability of funding for peacekeeping operations.

We hope that this discussion will generate new ideas and strategies in order to expand, deepen and improve cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations with a view to strengthening the capacity of the international community to respond effectively to new and old threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China welcomes the Argentine initiative to hold this debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We welcome the presence of Ms. Cristina Fernández, President of Argentina, to preside over today's meeting.

I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing. I have listened carefully to the statements made by the representatives of the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations.

The United Nations is the essential mechanism of international collective security. The Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, at a time when security threats and challenges are proliferating and the national security interests of countries are closely interlinked. Strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations helps to promote multilateralism and enhances the international collective security mechanism and our joint efforts to maintain international peace and security.

China attaches great importance to the role played by regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, the deployment of peacekeeping operations, post-conflict reconstruction and other areas. We support the efforts of the United Nations to deepen its cooperation with regional and subregional organization so as to better fulfil its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Here I wish to highlight four points.

First, in strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and subregional and regional organizations, we must be guided by the Charter of the United Nations. The Council should encourage and support such organizations in the quest to achieve the peaceful resolution of a conflict through dialogue, consultation, good offices and mediation, so as to contribute to regional peace and security. At the same time, the actions taken by regional organizations should be in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and any actions taken should be in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions and as mandated by the Council.

Secondly, the United Nations and regional organizations can bring into play their respective advantages and complement each other's work in working jointly to meet security threats and challenges. China supports the unique role played by regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations in promoting the peaceful resolution of conflict, as they are better positioned geographically, historically and culturally. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should help them to maximize their respective advantages, better complement and facilitate one another's work and avoid overlaps and conflict.

Thirdly, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should focus on effectiveness and be tailored to the local situation. The United Nations may engage in various forms of pragmatic cooperation with regional organizations, in accordance with their respective characters, in the field of confidence-building measures, good offices and crisis mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In addition to existing dialogue and consultation mechanisms, flexible and practical collaboration mechanisms should be actively explored with regional organizations according to their institutional structure and functions, with a view to meeting the real needs inherent in a particular situation.

Fourthly, the United Nations should strengthen *its assistance and support to regional and subregional* organizations. Enhancing the capacity of regional organizations to deal with security threats and challenges is an important means of effective conflict prevention. Many regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union (AU), have made major efforts, through good offices, to settle local hotspots, push forward peace processes and promote post-conflict reconstruction, with positive results. However, they also face various constraints in terms of resources and capacities. The United Nations should provide greater assistance to such regional organizations as the AU in personnel training, institution-building, logistical assistance and financial support, so as to strengthen their capacity-building and thereby help them to play an important role in the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

China attaches great importance to the unique role of regional and subregional organizations. We will continue to support such organizations in their proactive efforts to maintain regional peace and security and promote common development. China is ready to join the rest of the international community in pushing for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, creating a more secure and prosperous future.

Lastly, China supports the statement to be made by the representative of Kyrgyzstan, who will speak on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): I would first like to welcome you, Madam President, to the Council Chamber, and thank you for having convened today's open debate on this important issue. I believe that your presence, along with the briefing given by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, illustrates the increasing significance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. I would like also to thank all the representatives of regional organizations for their presentations this morning. Let me also extend a warm welcome to Ambassador Samantha Power of the United States; I look forward to working closely with her in the days and months to come.

Almost seven decades ago, when the Charter of the United Nations was being drafted, public discourse on regional organizations was in its infancy. What inspired that daring attempt to devote one whole chapter to cooperation with regional arrangements proved to be a great vision. Today the complexity and diversity of threats to international peace and security require a multidimensional response. The increasing role of regional and subregional organizations, among others, constitutes a major feature of that response.

An important point is that the degree of intraregional cooperation varies significantly between regions, based on the unique historical and political background that each region possesses. It is our view that cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements will be more fruitful when that reality is duly considered. Any attempt to invent a singular, uniform modality for cooperation would prove to be inappropriate. We need to be flexible, responsive and adaptive. Most importantly, we should aspire to be as imaginative as the founding fathers of the United Nations.

Located in an area where the role of regional organizations is not prominent compared with other regions, the Republic of Korea would like to add value to today's debate by pointing out that our common efforts to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should not inadvertently lead to an imbalance where the weight given to regional voices might result in an unintended disadvantage to those countries that do not belong to regional arrangements.

Having said that, my delegation would like to join others in acknowledging that regional and subregional organizations are better positioned to understand the root causes and context of conflicts occurring in the region to which they belong. Such organizations can play a vital role in the full cycle of conflict, covering conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

In recent years, the situation in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Darfur and the Central African Republic have demonstrated to us both the valuable achievements and the limitations of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Experience strongly indicates that a successful interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations requires the Security Council to bear the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Regional organizations play a complementary role in principle and in reality.

It is critical, therefore, that regional organizations enhance their own capacities in order to play a meaningful role in restoring peace and security. The United Nations should continue to support them by sharing the lessons learned through experience while continually exploring new ways to improve regional capacity.

The presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2013/12) covers comprehensive areas of cooperation. We believe that the statement will serve as a landmark reference on this issue. We appreciate Argentina's efforts in providing a valuable draft and coordinating all efforts in the process. We would like to highlight four specific points.

First, ending impunity for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law is the first step towards establishing the rule of law in the post-conflict peacebuilding process. In particular, violence and crimes against women and children should not go unpunished. We hope that regional and subregional organizations will contribute to accountability through their enhanced cooperation with international tribunals, including the International Criminal Court.

Secondly, regional organizations can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Security Council's sanction regimes by encouraging their members at the regional level. We also hope that all regional and subregional organizations will render their full cooperation to the Council's Sanction Committees and their Groups of Experts.

Thirdly, coordinated efforts at the national, regional and global levels are crucial to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Sharing information and experience between and among regional organizations will help eliminate weak links, which terrorists can exploit. The Republic of Korea, as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), will spare no effort to enhance cooperation with regional organizations with a view to establishing a living network of non-proliferation.

Lastly, better coordination with regional organizations with the United Nations and among themselves will also lead to a synergic effect in addressing transnational crimes such as piracy, human and drug trafficking, and the illicit trade in small arms across borders. The United Nations can lead the way in enhancing regional and global partnerships to jointly address all types of threats to peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Argentina.

My country has now assumed the presidency of the Security Council for the ninth time, but in an unprecedented regional context. There are 14 Foreign Ministers in the Council today, 12 of whom are from the Latin America region. The representative of Cuba spoke on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), while the representative of Peru took the floor on behalf of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). Argentina is a founding member of both of those regional and subregional entities. However, the most important consideration is that both bodies have had to deal with serious conflict situations in the region to which they were able to respond. That is essentially what the Security Council must also do in the face of the various conflicts that arise in different parts of the world, which make peace and security very vulnerable values in today's world.

One of the situations that we had to resolve when we were not yet even CELAC, but rather the Rio Group, which preceded CELAC, was the difficult situation between Ecuador and Colombia, which almost ended in an armed conflict. As a result of the intervention by the Rio Group, which was at that time in the Dominican Republic, the conflict was able to be successfully resolved. Later on, UNASUR also successfully dealt with different situations, including domestic situations in various countries, which jeopardized democratic stability — for example, the so-called Pando crisis, which concerned the Government of Evo Morales in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and gave rise to the Moneda Declaration, agreed in Santiago under President Bachelet, in her capacity as President pro tempore of UNASUR. We also adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration, which addressed the problem concerning the removal of President Rafael Correa of Ecuador and whereby we were able to halt the crisis and ensure the perpetuation of the democratic system — an issue that, for our region, is no minor concern. Rather, it is something that has affected our potential for economic growth and for that to take place essentially in an environment of peace and security.

I therefore think that the lesson that we have learned in terms of this debate with regard to how regional and subregional organizations can cooperate with the Security Council and the United Nations in finding solutions has to do with some of the issues that other representatives have outlined.

I cannot ignore the statement by the representative of the League of the Arab States, who talked about something that I think is at the crux of resolving conflicts and — I underscore this aspect — the effectiveness of the Security Council in resolving serious matters. What did the representative of the League of Arab States actually say? He said that all States Members of the United Nations must implement United Nations resolutions. It seems to almost go without saying, but actually it is not at all obvious. The distinctive feature here is that frequently, those that sit in this Chamber as permanent members with the right to the veto make use of that right, enshrined under the Charter of the United Nations and under the rules of procedure of the Security Council. However, they are the ones that obstruct real conflict resolution.

I would like to compare that with what I would term the South America doctrine. How do we adopt resolutions in CELAC and UNASUR? In those organizations, resolutions are adopted on the basis of unanimity when there is a conflict. That is the distinction we must make. Normally, all our States and national institutions have what we call the right of veto — something that is inherent to all executive powers. But running a Government is one thing; dealing with conflict is another. When managing conflict includes the right of the veto, the situation becomes much more difficult and, at times, even impossible.

We therefore believe that it is necessary to review the operation of United Nations institutions in general, specifically with regard to the Security Council, which respond to a different rationale, one that was in place when the Organization was established. During the Cold War, faced with the danger of a nuclear holocaust, the right of the veto was almost a safeguard to prevent such a conflagration. Following the Cold War, all those involved in it sit today around this table and are no longer involved in major conflicts. We need to rethink how the Organization's bodies function, for this is a new world, a new reality and new problems that cannot be addressed with old instruments and old methods: they will not provide us with answers. That is what we mean when we talk about the need to reach consensus, not on the basis of the particular interests of each country with the right to the veto, but rather to genuinely guarantee peace and stability.

In that connection, we can say that today South America and Latin America are regions of peace. My country is a leader in nuclear energy, but also a leader in nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The representative of the League of Arab States talked about the conflict that is now impacting the Middle East in terms of the refusal to accept a Palestinian State, which has an effect not only on Arab countries, but on so many other countries of the world, including mine.

In our own region, as the representative of CELAC mentioned, there is conflict owing to the failure to respect a resolution of the United Nations concerning the need for my country and the United Kingdom to begin talks and negotiations in the context of what the United Nations decided in resolution 2065 (XX), adopted in 1965, concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas. This is not a capricious position, nor is it about again saying "We are right". We are simply saying that we want the United Nations resolution to be implemented and that both countries should sit down and discuss this litigious and controversial matter. I believe that there is a way to begin to unblock such conflicts.

It has been pointed out that there are differing opinions. One can have such opinions on matters that have not been resolved by the United Nations. However, when the Organization, to which all of us have signed on and whose resolutions we have all committed to respecting, adopts a resolution in the General Assembly — the highest organ of the Organization — it is no longer a matter of differing opinions; it is about a United Nations resolution and about whether or not we are ready to comply with our obligations as Members.

I mention that just by way of example, for I do not want to start a controversy here. But I do so because I think that the issues that the world is experiencing are so numerous and so serious that peace and security becomes not just a military concept, but also essentially an economic one. The 2008 crisis, which continues today and has further compounded existing conflicts, requires all of us to adopt a different attitude, rethink how we function within our organizations and consider how to change rules and conceive of and design new instruments that allow us to be effective. For I think that, at the end of the day, we will win the respect of global society when we are able to show that we are effective in the way we operate. Being effective in how things are managed means mediating, and it means achieving a solution from that mediation, especially when the mediation is the subject of a resolution of the highest organ. That is how it is in each of our States when a parliament takes a decision and the executive branch respects it. We must understand that similarity if we want to deal with global governance.

Much has also been said here about human rights. I am proud to say that my country is an example when it comes to full respect for human rights, having in the 1970s suffered from one of the most terrible dictatorships, which led to the disappearance not only of Argentine citizens but also of citizens of other nationalities. We are also leaders in this area. Along with other countries, we established the Human Rights Council and welcomed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, along with France and other co-authoring countries.

Those are the thoughts that I wanted to share, which I do not purport bear the arrogance of holding some revealed or absolute truth. I simply wanted to show how we in Latin America have overcome very serious situations in the region by using a formula by which no one could leave the table until an issue were resolved by consensus.

Finally, as I did with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon when he kindly received me once again in a private meeting, I wanted to express the need to establish global rules to ensure the sovereignty of States and citizens' privacy around the world, in the light of the recent well-known events. I think many things have occurred since the fall of the Berlin Wall. One of the clearest reasons for the fall of the Wall was that, first of all, the citizens on the other side wanted to live in freedom and without being watched. Yesterday, I recalled an excellent movie, which I am sure we all know won an Academy Award here in the United States, "The Lives of Others", in which citizens felt they were being spied on and controlled. I think this shows the values that served to forge the ideal of democracy, the ideal that we can live and coexist in plurality and diversity, with different ideas, but without our different ideas leading us to become enemies of either the State or other fellow citizens. Those values should be taken up again, because those are the concepts that underpin the Charter adopted in San Francisco and many conventions that we have adhered to. I truly believe that, at heart — granted, in some cases more at heart than others — we all believe the same thing. It is not just a question of sensitivity or intellectual generosity. It is a way, perhaps the most intelligent one, of ensuring that democracy is viewed by as many of the world's citizens as possible as the best way to live. I believe that peace and security, economic growth, inclusiveness, respect for human rights and individual privacy are inalienable rights that nobody is ready to give up.

That is why we wanted to hold this debate today on how regional and subregional organizations cooperate with our mother Organization, the United Nations, to ensure that we have a world with more peace and more security. We must also state that peace and security is not a military concept. There are those who say that peace and security is to be achieved only by arms, but there are plenty of examples over thousands of years of human history that show us clearly that what really builds societies and ensures stability are the values and ideals for which a given society, as well as millions of individuals around the world, are ready to give their lives. We have seen this in the emancipating revolutions of the nineteenth century, in particular in the Americas, and in Africa in the twentieth century. Today's global village requires a different type of emancipation and independence.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There are still 30 speakers on the list of speakers. Given the lateness of the hour, I intend to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7015 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7015th meeting
Tuesday, 6 August 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Fernández/Mrs. Perceval/Mr. Oyarzábal	(Argentina)
Members:	Australia	Ms. Henschke
	Azerbaijan	Mrs. Jafarova
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. El Oumni
	Pakistan	Mr. Munir
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nibishaka
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 1 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/446)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

Accessible document

Please recycle

The meeting resumed at 3.15 p.m.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): Before resuming my duties as President of the Council, I should like to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

When I spoke earlier about the achievements of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), I forgot to mention the Santa Marta agreement, which was reached between President Santos Calderón and President Hugo Chávez Frias. Colombia and Venezuela were on the verge of an armed conflict, and it was the then Secretary-General of UNASUR, President Néstor Kirchner, who acted as mediator in achieving that agreement. That achievement was a very important one for me, and has both institutional and personal value.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Moreno Charme (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Government of Chile commends Argentina's initiative to hold this open debate on cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in order to consider the maintenance of international peace and security from a regional perspective. I thank President Cristina Fernández for this opportunity.

The Latin America and the Caribbean region is a zone of peace. That has enabled us to cooperate in our pursuit of sustainable development as one of the pillars of stability. For us, meeting the needs of our peoples is, in essence, a collaborative effort for peace. That vision guides the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. The task that we face today is to pursue development through joint integration projects.

The issue that brings us here today is of particular relevance to Chile, whose foreign policy is based on fundamental principles such as the sovereign equality of States; non-interference; the binding nature of, and respect for, international treaties; the defense of democracy and respect for human rights; the peaceful settlement of disputes; and international cooperation. Those principles, which are set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, constitute the basis of international coexistence and a guarantee of world peace and stability.

Collective action is imperative in addressing traditional and emerging threats. Such action is strengthened by the involvement of regional and subregional organizations. That is Chile's interpretation of Chapter VIII of the Charter, and that understanding prompts us to promote effective multilateralism that is genuinely capable of incorporating the contributions of regional and subregional organizations to address crises or conflicts that may affect security and peace.

Our country recognizes the importance of the inter-American system, which has provided our region with a set of instruments that constitute a fundamental political and legal heritage for governance in the hemisphere. That system should help foster linkages and coordination between the region and global spheres.

We also wish to highlight the positive relationship between integration and security in the Latin American and South American region. The region has been enriched by the establishment of different regional and subregional bodies, which we understand to be the guided by the principles of solidarity, cooperation and the rule of international law.

Regional agreements have produced a series of advances under the scope of security in the broadest sense of the term, such as the declarations of peace in the Andean region and the establishment of MERCOSUR and UNASUR. In that connection, Chile attaches importance to the adoption of democratic provisions, integration projects and confidence-building measures, which play an effective role in conflict-prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict processes. We would also like to underscore the role our countries are playing in the reconstruction of Haiti through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, as well as the various forms of cooperation that support different regional and subregional mechanisms.

We also wish to highlight the contribution that UNASUR has made in this area. That organization has drawn attention to the importance of consensus — as you mentioned in your statement, Madam President — as well as to transparency in military expenditures, the establishment of a peace zone in South America, the peaceful settlement of disputes and political cooperation. Those are factors that contribute effectively to the achievement of peace, and they are principles that we, the member States of UNOSUR, incorporated into the 2012 declaration of South America as a zone of peace.

Peace and security in our region is one of the major drivers of integration, as well as a fundamental element in making progress along the path to development while also ensuring the appropriate inclusion of the region as a whole in the international arena.

Collective action can be enhanced through the involvement of regional and subregional organizations, in particular in the areas of conflict-prevention, development and post-conflict situations. As I have already said, that is how we understand Chapter VIII of the Charter, inasmuch as we are a country that strongly promotes multilateralism and its rules.

In conclusion, as the Secretary-General said himself here, the United Nations needs to continue to strengthen its links with regional organizations as a critical element of the Organization's work to achieve a better and more secure world for all.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Patriota (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to convey to you, Madam President, the fraternal greetings of President Dilma Rousseff. The Brazilian Government wishes every success to the Argentine presidency of the Council for the month of August.

I also welcome the statements made by representatives on behalf of the various regional and subregional organizations, in particular those on behalf of the Union of South America Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

You, Madam President, made my task easier by referring to the interception of communications and acts of espionage. Such practices violate sovereignty, harm relations between nations and constitute a violation of human rights, in particular the right to privacy and the right of our citizens to information. In that respect, you have complied with the decision of the States parties of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) who met in Montevideo last month. Yesterday, the Foreign Ministers of MERCOSUR conveyed to the Secretary-General the position of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela with respect to, and in compliance with, that decision. The matter will also be placed before various United Nations bodies, in accordance with the decision and the document circulated under the symbol A/67/946. This is a very serious issue with a profound impact on the international system. Brazil is coordinating with countries that share similar concerns for the benefit of an international order that respects human rights and the sovereignty of States.

I welcome the timely statement made on 12 July by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay: "surveillance [programmes] without adequate safeguards to protect the right to privacy actually risk impacting negatively on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms". Pillay also mentioned article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 17 and 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which established, respectively, that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence", and that "Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks".

Brazil also associates itself with the repeated appeals by Ms. Pillay in various forums that efforts to combat terrorism must necessarily respect human rights and international humanitarian law. Her position was incorporated into the decision of the Heads of State of MERCOSUR as well as the presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/12) adopted by the Council this morning.

I would like to welcome for the timely initiative of the Argentine Republic to hold this open debate, which involves various dimensions on the coordination between regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations. Pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, that coordination already takes place throughout the world, in different forms and to various degrees, including in regions characterized by peace, democracy and cooperation, such as South America.

In that context, UNASUR has significantly contributed to the promotion of the ideals and purposes of the United Nations. The South American Defence Council establishes an innovative mechanism for coordination and cooperation among South American countries in matters of peace and security, including through greater transparency on military expenditures.

In addition, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the countries of Latin American have decisively supported the efforts of the United Nations for the stabilization of Haiti, the only country in the Americas where a United Nations peacekeeping mission is currently deployed.

CELAC constitutes a new mechanism for political coordination and integration that brings together the 33 countries of South America, Central America and the Caribbean. One of its main goals is to consolidate Latin America and the Caribbean as a region of dialogue, cooperation, integration and peace. In that context, it is worth recalling the unequivocal support of CELAC for the legitimate claim of the Argentine Republic for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

The member States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic have supported a South Atlantic free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We are thereby attempting to bring closer together the two sides of the South Atlantic as regions free of nuclear weapons thanks to the Pelindaba Treaty in Africa and the Treaty of Tlatelolco in Latin America and the Caribbean. We encourage other regions to associate themselves to the agenda and look forward to the convening of a conference for the establishment, in the shortest possible term, of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

(*spoke in English*)

Chapter VIII of the Charter teaches us that, before resorting to the Security Council, Member States must make an effort to attempt to settle disputes peacefully by means of regional arrangements, agencies or mechanisms. No issue is more sensitive in the articulation between regional and United Nations multilateral spheres than the question of the imposition of sanctions and the use of force. Even in the recent past, we have seen the occurrence of unilateral interventions, which are incompatible with an international order based on peace, cooperation, solidarity and respect for international law. It is with that in mind that in the new world order being created, Brazil has defended the establishment of a multipolarity based on cooperation, devoid of unilateralism or exceptionalism, an order that favours the improvement of multilateralism and aims at searching for peaceful solutions to the challenges faced by the Council, based on international law.

Mention should be made of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in this context, a defense alliance that does not seem to frame its activities clearly under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and that has made use of concepts and strategies that raise problematic and sensitive issues in terms of the articulation between the regional level and the United Nations system. We are concerned that, historically, leaders of NATO and member countries have considered that the organization does not necessarily require explicit authorization from the Security Council to resort to coercion. We are also concerned that NATO has loosely interpreted mandates for action aimed at promoting international peace and security authorized by the Security Council. As Brazil has maintained, including through the Brazilian concept note on "responsibility while protecting" (S/2011/701, annex), the Security Council should avail itself of the institutional means of monitoring the adequate fulfilment of its mandates.

We are concerned as well that NATO has been searching to establish partnerships out of its area, far beyond the North Atlantic, including in regions of peace, democracy and social inclusion, and that rule out the presence of weapons of mass destruction in their territories. It would be extremely grave for the future of the articulation between regional and global efforts at promoting peace, as prescribed by the United Nations, if groups of countries started to unilaterally define their sphere of action beyond the territory of their own members.

I would like to underline the important cooperation that exists today between the United Nations and the African Union. Through its refined Peace and Security Architecture, the African Union has contributed to satisfactorily preventing and solving tensions and conflicts in the African continent, as in the recent cases of the Sudan and Somalia. Brazil defends African solutions to African problems. In that spirit, President Dilma Rousseff participated at Addis Ababa in the fiftieth anniversary of the African Union, thereby reaffirming the Brazilian commitment to strengthen our partnerships with the African continent.

Brazil welcomes the political commitment of the Secretary-General and of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and neighbouring countries to the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. We are confident that, under the leadership of Brazilian General Carlos Alberto Santos Cruz, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will play its role in the protection of civilians. The military component, however, should be seen as a tool in support of a political strategy, and, as Special

Envoy Mary Robinson has mentioned, as one part of a comprehensive approach that embraces security and development.

In the case of Guinea-Bissau, we welcome the emphasis that the Security Council has placed on the importance that stakeholders involved in mediation efforts speak with one voice. The international community must avoid any possible discrepancy between the positions of regional and subregional groups that are closer to a conflict or a specific situation and the positions of other geographically broader entities. The harmonization of messages and positions between the regional and the multilateral strengthen international efforts towards peace. Conversely, discrepancies weaken our peace efforts.

The Brazilian Government remains deeply concerned about the violence in Syria and strongly supports the work of United Nations-League of Arab States Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi. His efforts should provide a synthesis of the possibilities for an articulation of the regional and multilateral levels in international relations.

We cannot help but take careful note of the words of the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry of the Human Rights Council, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, to the General Assembly on 29 July, when he stated "There is no military solution to this conflict" and that "Those who supply arms to the various warring parties are not creating the ground for victory but rather the illusion of victory". Mr. Pinheiro also highlighted that that was "a dangerous and irresponsible illusion, as it allows the war to unfurl endlessly before us" and "it opens the door to further immense human suffering and the possible conflagration of an entire region". As reiterated on several occasions, including at the Council on 23 July, Brazil supports the holding of, and is ready to contribute to, a new Geneva conference as soon as possible, so as to promote an inclusive, Syrian-led political process leading to a transition that corresponds to the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people.

Brazil considers it fundamental to reverse the impasse and paralysis that have characterized the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis. It is a regrettable situation in which neither regional organizations nor the United Nations, as a multilateral organization, have reached tangible results. The plurilateral mechanism that is professedly responsible for the issue — the Quartet — has been inoperative. I reiterate that the Brazilian Government considers it fundamental that the Security Council fully assume its responsibilities and refrain from outsourcing its role to third parties, unless that can translate into measurable results for the promotion of peace.

In that context, the Brazilian Government supports the mediation efforts carried out by United States Secretary of State John Kerry and notes with satisfaction the announcement of the resumption of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, with the objective of reaching a comprehensive peace agreement in nine months, which shall culminate in the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. We welcome Israel's decision to free 104 Palestinians from its prisons and hope that the gesture will contribute to the much-awaited realization of a two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 borders.

Finally, allow me once more to welcome the Argentine initiative of promoting this debate. Opportunities to discuss topics directly related to the core mandate of the Security Council are important, not only to contribute to the constant updating of the political guidance and working methods of the Council, but also because they allow us to underline the importance of basing our efforts for the promotion of peace on the strict observance of the Charter and of Council resolutions. They also bring to the fore the need to permanently improve our coordination aimed at the construction of a Council attuned to contemporary reality, including as concerns its composition.

In that connection, Brazil would like to highlight the paragraph of the presidential statement it adopted today, according to which,

> "The Council further encourages enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of tolerance and peace, to promote better understanding across countries, cultures and civilizations".

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Mr. Choquehuanca Céspedes (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Today is 6 August, the day that my country celebrates its independence. I should like to welcome the struggle, the rebellion and the resistance of my people, who for centuries did not give up and will never give up peace and harmony. Today Bolivia is experiencing a revolutionary process that is sustained by democracy and the conscience of the people.

Here in the twenty-first century, we feel that it is anachronistic to maintain the categories of permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council. After 68 years, it is clear that some of these so-called super-Powers were and still are the causes of conflicts and wars in different parts of the world. Preserving peace is not and will not be the result of the existence of international policemen, but rather as a result of the promotion of social justice, equity, complementarity, solidarity and respect between States.

Latin America is an emerging zone of peace thanks to the desire of its leaders to write its history without oversight from other Powers. While NATO organizes interventions in South America, the Union of South American Nations has averted coups and conflicts of various kinds. The existence of two categories violates the principle of the equality of rights among States, whether large or small, as established by the Charter of the United Nations. In the twenty-first century, the existence of monarchistic practices within the United Nations is unacceptable. Those who claim to be promoters and defenders of democracy in the world must be the first to set an example and must respect the basic principles of democracy within the United Nations.

So long as we fail to discuss these substantive issues, international peace and security will not be guaranteed no matter how many cooperation programmes we have. The day will come when all States Member of the United Nations exercise their rights and participate in equal conditions — in other words, when there is true democracy in the United Nations. So long as the veto exists, we will not have a true democratization of the United Nations. We will have first-class and second-class nations. All Members of the United Nations must be equal in all its bodies. We must achieve the equality of rights of large and small nations enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

The Security Council's action has not been participatory. We require a Security Council that is transparent, democratic and flexible; that acts with authority; but above all, that is open to the vigilance of all of the Members of the United Nations. In important matters, the General Assembly must have the power to review and to take a stand on issues and not simply leave it in the hands of the Security Council. Transforming the Security Council and the comprehensive transformation of the United Nations are critical to enabling us to tackle the various crises that have begun to merge and that affect the important issues facing humankind and the planet, such as energy, finance, food and climate change.

Before concluding, I should like to express our rejection and condemnation of the practice of espionage on the part of the United States. I should also like to express the grief and indignation of my people and my Government over the act of aggression experienced by President Evo Morales Ayma, which has been described by the international community as offensive, humiliating, discriminatory, colonialistic, unfriendly, and a violation of human rights and international standards. Given the grave nature of these facts, we ask the United Nations to clarify these events and to take measures to guarantee human rights and international law so that no one will have to suffer such violations again.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Jaua Milano (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I should like to convey to the members of the Council and all those present at this debate the greetings of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros. He asked me in particular to convey to you, President Cristina, his pleasure at seeing you assuming with dignity and courage this very important global responsibility. In Venezuela, we are sure that all of Latin America and the Caribbean are deeply proud of you. President Maduro reiterates before the United Nations his firm commitment to continuing to fly the banner of peace, social justice, cooperation and the self-determination of peoples, bearing in mind the historic legacy of Commander President Hugo Chávez Frías, leader of the Bolivarian revolution.

Today, we join in the pleasure of the Bolivian people on its national holiday, and recall the commemoration of the 200 years of the triumphant entry of the liberator Simón Bolívar into the town of Caracas after having carried out a successful campaign that began in December of 1812 in New Granada. We must always remember that, when united, we South Americans will achieve independence, and united we are achieving independence, equality and democracy for our peoples.

On behalf of the States members of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), we congratulate you, Madam President, and the people of Argentina on assuming the presidency of the Security Council, entrusted with maintaining international peace and security. Today in the Latin American and Caribbean region, there are no conflicts between countries that would endanger global or regional peace. On the contrary, we have seen more and more initiatives of regional and subregional integration that promote dialogue and trust among peoples and prevent and avoid conflicts between States through innovative mechanisms. We continue to strengthen our democratic systems, creating the conditions in every country and the entire bloc to build a culture of peace.

The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, PetroCaribe and MERCOSUR, which I am proud to represent here, are among those regional integration initiatives that, in a very short time, have made major achievements in sustaining peace and preserving democracy in our region.

Peace cannot be achieved in the world without social justice and without eradicating once and for all hunger, poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and the wide technological divides — in other words, without guaranteeing to all the resources necessary for their full development in equal conditions. Nor can we achieve peace without guaranteeing the effective participation of citizens in political matters and in controlling their own destinies — in other words, without the entrenchment of democratic systems as a way of guaranteeing a social state of law and justice. It is in these aspects where the Latin American and Caribbean integration has made progress, showing that we can identify joint formulas to achieve the well-being of our peoples in democracy.

In particular, we note that MERCOSUR has gone from being a commercial agreement to being a very important social mechanism, creating common institutions endowed with the human and material resources to work in these areas. Furthermore, MERCOSUR's commitment to democracy has been clear throughout its existence. The instruments, declarations, decisions and resolutions of MERCOSUR have sought democracy and peace in the region, including by preventing coups and other attempts to frustrate the democratic will of our peoples, promoted by fascistic movements represented by political and economic leaders that are found particularly in media corporations. These movements attack democratic Governments and peoples that have chosen the path of independence, social inclusion and the grass-roots democratization of our societies. These groups and movements, which ignore election results and democratic institutions and promote political violence, pose the greatest threat to political stability in our region.

The timely and firm action of MERCOSUR, along with other regional and subregional organizations, managed to stop attempted coups in Paraguay in 1996 and 1999, thereby guaranteeing democratic order. Similarly, in 2006 and 2007, MERCOSUR condemned and took action to prevent attempts to divide Bolivia as a way of weakening the democratic Government of President Evo Morales. Likewise, the Foreign Ministers of the countries members of MERCOSUR condemned the attempted coup against President Rafael Correa in Ecuador on 30 September 2010, joining with other regional blocs to issue a joint warning to the world and prevent that crime from taking place.

Although it could not be prevented, MERCOSUR acted decisively in the parliamentary coup against President Fernando Lugo of Paraguay in June 2012. On that occasion, the Foreign Ministers of MERCOSUR and UNASUR travelled to Asunción with the intention of starting a dialogue and preventing the interruption of the constitutional order. That was not achieved, and the bloc had to temporarily suspend the Republic of Paraguay until its political institutional and democratic situation was normalized through the holding of elections. More recently, MERCOSUR issued a timely appeal for respect for the popular will and democratic institutions of my country, Venezuela, following rejection by the defeated candidate of the results of the elections on 15 April and his call to violence.

We stress that MERCOSUR has been able to circumvent these situations with peaceful and democratic mechanisms, without economic blockades, military intervention, indiscriminate bombing or armed intervention of any kind. We believe that the only way to defeat violence is with greater democracy and peaceful means.

MERCOSUR has also participated in issues that affect international peace and security, such as the coup in Honduras against President Zelaya, and, inter alia, the situations in the Middle East, the Korean peninsula and the Balkan peninsula when it was engulfed in conflict. MERCOSUR has also created its own institutions in order to deepen and preserve democracy, including the MERCOSUR Center for the Promotion of the Rule of Law and the MERCOSUR Democracy Observatory, among others.

MERCOSUR reiterates its support for United Nations reform, including that of the Security Council, with a view to giving greater legitimacy to its composition and decision-making process in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, among them the sovereign equality of States. The words of President Hugo Chávez Frías before the General Assembly during the closing meeting of the Millennium Summit on 8 September 2000 remain valid today. It is an appeal to continue working earnestly to achieve the democratization of the Security Council. Commander Chávez proposed

> "that democratization of the Security Council be faced and achieved. But it must be done because if it is not, many said we could lose the credibility of the message and the debate on democracy and equality, which is spoken of frequently in these forums. This is so necessary in order to effect change in the world." *(A/55/PV.8, p. 37)*

In the opinion of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, unfortunately, in recent times we have been concerned to see that, on the contrary, some countries have continued to assert their political, military and economic power and distorted the very essence of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. They have gone so far as to use the Security Council as a platform to encourage armed interventions against sovereign States and peoples with a view to promoting the poorly named regime change, in contravention of all principles of international law.

We reject ongoing colonial situations that undermine the maintenance of international peace and security, such as the violation of Argentinian sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. In this sense, the States members of MERCOSUR reassert their full support for the sovereign rights of the Republic of Argentina over this island territory. Similarly, we continue to condemn and call for an end to the criminal economic blockade against the honourable and brotherly Republic of Cuba, as well as compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions. Furthermore, as a major contribution to achieving peace in the Middle East, in particular the question of Palestine, the Council must address as soon as possible the legitimate request of the State of Palestine to be admitted as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations.

As Foreign Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and as Pro-Tempore President of MERCOSUR, I take this opportunity to reiterate our firm condemnation of the insult to the office of the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, President Evo Morales, when some European Governments did not permit the overflight or landing of the aircraft transporting him. That was not only a hostile, unfounded, discriminatory and arbitrary action, but also a flagrant violation of the precepts of international law. Similarly, we reject the actions of global espionage carried out by the Government of the United States, which undermine the sovereignty of States and which we have become familiar through the revelations of the former security contractor, Edward Snowden.

Given the seriousness of these reports of computer espionage on a global scale, recognized by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union himself, the United Nations must initiate a broad multilateral discussion that would make it possible to design agreements to safeguard the sovereignty and security of States in the light of such illegal practices. MERCOSUR has begun action to promote a discussion on this matter so that we can open an appropriate investigation within the United Nations and punish and condemn this violation of international law.

We reiterate our condemnation of actions that could undermine the power of States to fully implement the right of humanitarian asylum. In this respect, we reject any attempt to pressure, harass or criminalize a State or third party over the sovereign decision of any nation to grant asylum, which is enshrined in all international conventions. Likewise, we express our solidarity with the Governments of Bolivia and Nicaragua, which, like Venezuela, have offered asylum to Mr. Snowden, as expressed by the Heads of State of MERCOSUR in the decision concerning the universal recognition of the right of political asylum, issued in Montevideo on 12 July. These three matters were discussed yesterday with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in compliance with the mandate of the Presidents of MERCOSUR, at his meeting with the Foreign Ministers of our organization seeking due treatment from United Nations bodies.

Lastly, MERCOSUR reaffirms its commitment to the common cause of international peace and security guided by shared values in building a pluripolar system that is free of hegemony and contributes to strengthening a multicentric and inclusive world with unlimited respect for international law

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

Mr. Almagro (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to begin by congratulating President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner and the delegation of Argentina on assuming the presidency of the Security Council and on having convened this high-level open debate aimed at strengthening our understanding of the role of regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security and incorporating new regional and subregional actors that reflect the dynamics of sociopolitical realities throughout all regions of our planet.

Uruguay also welcomes the presence of the representatives of regional and subregional organizations, in particular from Latin America and the Caribbean, including the Common Market of the South, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and the Organization of American States, and our dear friends from the League of Arab States.

Notwithstanding the responsibility that the Charter of the United Nations Charter entrusts to the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security, regional and subregional entities make a clear and ineluctable contribution to preventing, resolving or minimizing most of the situations that threaten global peace. The South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone is a contribution of our countries to protecting our region from military adventurism. It has opened a path to cooperation, completely changing the logic in the South Atlantic with respect to the North Atlantic, which has its defence mechanisms and its military alliances. This strategy, which has been strengthened politically by the importance attached to it by such organizations as the African Union and UNASUR, to which our countries belong in our respective regions, is also strengthened by the greater interaction achieved through the Africa-South America summit that took place in Abuja, Margarita Island, and Equatorial Guinea. These entities recognize the Zone as a fundamental instrument for promoting peace, security and cooperation among our countries.

The South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone embodies a commitment to the essential values of peaceful coexistence, democracy and respect for human rights. For our countries, these are fundamental and undeniable principles. The Zone is an initiative of international scope, and we manage it in strict respect for the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including the sovereignty and legal equality of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as non-interference in internal affairs of other countries. As current Chairman of the Zone, I note some of the fundamental provisions of our Montevideo Declaration. Our meeting in that city helped to reiterate our commitment to the consolidation of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and cooperation free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We urge other States to recognize it as such.

We know that the very existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, remains a serious threat to humankind, creating tension and mistrust among peoples. We believe that progress in the multilateral agenda, especially concerning compliance with disarmament obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, must be a high priority for Member States.

The South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone countries clearly recall the 1994 declaration of the Zone on the denuclearization of the South Atlantic, adopted at the third ministerial meeting. We are therefore doing all we can to ban and prevent in our respective territories and territorial waters the use, manufacture, production, acquisition, reception, storage and deployment of all nuclear weapons, as well as any direct or indirect attempt to encourage any of these activities in the South Atlantic. In that regard, we urge the international community to respect the Zone's status.

In addition to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which are currently in force, we urge the international community to fully respect the denuclearized status of our Zone. Our countries are unfailingly committed to disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We also understand the importance of preventive diplomacy, mediation and good offices, and the establishment, maintenance and consolidation of peace to the maintenance of international peace and security; the key importance of avoiding the escalation of conflicts and of settling disputes; and the important role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in building peace. We highlight the importance of their full participation in all initiatives to maintain peace and security, and the need to increase their participation in decision-making with respect to prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Our country is concerned by the negative role played by the exploitation of natural resources in the exacerbation of conflicts. We welcome efforts under way in Africa, in particular on the part of the States members of the Zone, to implement a legal framework designed to address this practice. In this respect, we urge the international community to support these efforts.

For Uruguay and the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone, it is crucial to stress the importance of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, to which some States members of the Zone are contributors. We recognize the potential for cooperation in strengthening the capacity of member States of the Zone to take part in peacekeeping operations. We also reaffirm the need to support the peace processes under way, as well as the United Nations peacekeeping operations deployed in States member in the Zone. We reiterate the need to further study mechanisms and possibilities for cooperation in peacekeeping operations.

The South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone supports the efforts of its member States in promoting the principle of the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the quest for negotiated solutions to territorial conflicts which affect member States of the zone. In that respect, the Zone calls for the resumption of negotiations between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom, in accordance with resolution General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other resolutions of the General Assembly on the question of the Malvinas Islands with a view to finding a just, lasting and peaceful solution as soon as possible.

We also reaffirm General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls on both parties to the dispute concerning the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas to refrain from taking decisions that would involve the introduction of unilateral changes in the situation while the Islands go through the process recommended in resolutions of the General Assembly. In that context, we are concerned to see the development of illegitimate activities of oil exploration in the zone in dispute.

Uruguay, as Chairman of the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone, maintains along with other countries of the Zone, that we must eliminate the vision of the South Atlantic as a stage for strategic action between antagonistic States with competing interests. The South Atlantic is a geostrategic area that endows our countries, through the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone, with a new instrument to move forward in the major objectives of the international community: peace, security and the development of our societies.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Holguín Cuéllar (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to start by stating our pleasure at seeing you, Madam President, presiding over this meeting of the Security Council, and by congratulating you on your initiative to convene this important debate. Colombia shares the proposed objective as contained in the concept note before us (S/2013/446, annex), which invites us to consider this matter from a broad perspective and to identify options to strengthen and deepen cooperation between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations.

I express my gratitude for the briefings by the representatives of the African Union and the League of Arab States, and I welcome the presence for the first time before the Security Council of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

The regional and subregional organizations play an increasingly important role in the work of the Security Council, and their activities in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security are more effective when they work in a coordinated manner and their perspectives are taken into account. Libya, Yemen, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, the Sudan and South Sudan are just a few examples of countries where the contributions of those organizations have been instrumental vis-à-vis the decisions of the Security Council.

In the Americas, Haiti is an example of the results that can be gained from cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Resolution 2070 (2012) recognized the positive efforts that UNASUR had deployed in Haiti with tangible results. In that regard, I would like to highlight the leadership as well as the technical and financial support that Argentina has given to the UNASUR technical secretariat in Haiti.

The fulfilment of the mandate of the Security Council benefits from the understanding of the geographical, social, cultural and political context that regional and subregional organizations have with respect to crises or conflicts on its agenda. That aspect is especially relevant to my country, which acknowledges the way in which the international community, in particular our regional partners, has understood the importance of backing the initiative of President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón to hold peace talks with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia. The positive effect of reaching an agreement to end the conflict and the achievement of a definitive peace in Colombia will without question redound to the benefit of the region. In that respect, we would like to thank Cuba, Venezuela and Chile for their support for the process.

One of the challenges that the United Nations faces in its dialogue with regional and subregional organizations is finding common ground to build positive agendas aimed at strengthening those areas in which the experience of regional or subregional organizations represents a substantive contribution that will have an impact on the ground.

Perspectives that are closer to the realities of the regions enrich and give greater understanding to the analysis and understanding of a situation of crisis under study. That implies having an open mind and considering alternatives for a solution that may not coincide with universally applicable formulas. That is why we reiterate the importance of strengthening consultation, dialogue and coordination mechanisms between the Council and such organizations, in order to provide long-term solutions to crises and ensure that the Council bears in mind in an effective manner that interaction when, among other aspects, it analyses the renewal of mandates for peacekeeping operations.

It is of the utmost importance that, pursuant to Chapter VIII, priority be given to regional and subregional mechanisms to resolve matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, before referring them to the Security Council. The search for political and diplomatic solutions to conflict situations and the strict adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Organization and to international law must be the cornerstone that supports collective international security.

Some decades ago, State actors were the only protagonists in history, and the main threats to their peace and security came from other States. Today, States have realized that they face common threats that originate from international networks which are involved in trafficking and crimes of various kinds. The world of today requires cooperation in different ways and between different regions. Reality has shown us that those threats cannot be combated by countries on an individual basis.

The nature of the crimes that we face today requires us to cooperate and join our efforts. It is in that sense that agreements between countries and organizations from different geographical regions have to be understood. Those crimes are transnational in nature and should be fought as such. That is how countries such as Colombia, which have suffered from the actions of criminal organizations, understand it.

Cooperation and confidence-building have positive impacts on all countries and regions, which is why, to fulfil its mandate, the Security Council needs the support of strong, capable regional and subregional organizations that are prepared to resolve in a timely fashion the conflict situations that arise in their respective areas.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ecuador.

Mr. Patiño Aroca (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the delegation of Argentina for the invitation extended to the Government of Ecuador to take part in today's important event. We are honoured by the fact that you, Madam President, are presiding over a body of this nature with the great ability, leadership and strength you show as President of the Argentine Republic.

During the recent summit of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) that took place on 12 July in Montevideo, the States convened resolved to "request Argentina to submit the matter of the massive espionage case uncovered by Edward Snowden for consideration by the Security Council". They also resolved to "demand that those responsible for those actions immediately cease therefrom and provide explanations of their motivations and their consequences". In similar terms, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America spoke at the last Guayaquil, summit which was held just five days ago, when it was decided to "warn the international community about the seriousness of these actions, which imply a threat to the security and peaceful coexistence among our States".

This takes place in a context where undoubtedly Latin American regional authorities are assuming a growing role when it comes to collective security, which was commendibly cited by you, Madam President, and by my colleagues in their earlier statements. Accordingly, I will not refer to matters already covered in statements that, to no one's surprise, are designed to honour Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which brings us here today.

In compliance with the MERCOSUR agreement referred to previously, which we endorse, I would like to make the following statement.

Just a few weeks ago, the world saw a sequence of events more akin to a Cold War spy novel than to modern times. On 5 June, leaks began to appear in publications in major global media outlets, leaks that were mixed with almost deathly intent and unspooled as a reality show before global public opinion. The leaks came from a former 29-year-old American analyst who sought to escape deportation to his country, where he would be tried for those leaks. After a journey that began in Hong Kong and was supposed to end in Latin America, today, it seems to have stopped, but it may not yet have completely run its course, despite the granting of asylum by Russia.

During those few days in June, we saw the size and the discretional nature of a massive surveillance apparatus that suddenly brought all the inhabitants of the planet closer than ever to an Orwellian nightmare. Although at first it appeared to be a simple matter of wiretapping, it was later discovered that there was discretionary monitoring of emails. While it seemed initially that the apparatus was being used in operations against organized crime, later we learned that it was also being used to gain advantage in trade negotiations with other countries. If we once thought that they were simply looking at unaffected States, we now know that everyone — absolutely everyone: debtors and creditors, friends and enemies, South and North — is considered a usual suspect by the authorities of the United States of America. Now we know that our communications are permanently monitored by them.

No one knows yet if Mr. Snowden will once again manage to leak information that he claims to possess. Of course, it seems that he will not do it when he is in Russia. In any case, the wounds opened by those events should be assessed within the main multilateral forums. They deserve to be so because not only do they reflect an unacceptable imbalances in the global governance system, which in no case would help to build a climate of trust and cooperation between countries, and, in the final analysis, a climate of peace among nations. They deserve to be assessed because we have also have moved dangerously close to the limits set out by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The imbalances to which I refer are clear — the United States, like any other countries, has the need to deal with demands related to its national security, it goes without saying, but those legitimate demands must be dealt with in a way that does not affect the rights of individuals or indeed the sovereignty of other nations. That is to say, limits must be set. However, we are now faced with the fact that any limits there may have been have vanished. The national security of the United States has been placed above all universal moral values.

Such a drive has meant that the principles of equality and non-interference in the affairs of States, established in the Westphalia peace agreement, have now vanished into thin air. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been violated. The rights to the privacy of correspondence — article 12 — and to freedom of expression and opinon — article 19 — the rights of all citizens of the world, including United States citizens, have been trampled in the name of a greater goal, that is, national security — or rather, for the sake of the profits of the national security industry.

Where are the limits, really? Has the time not come for the Council to take up this question again and discuss it? In the end, does this not pose a threat to global peace? What mutual trust could possibly exist among nations under such circumstances? We believe that the time has come for the United Nations to face up to this matter responsibly.

As we have seen with the disappearance of such limits, this situation threatens to build walls between our countries. If it has not done so already, it could also affect international cooperation against organized crime; strangely enough, there is even the possibility that trade negotiations could be disrupted. Paradoxically, even the very national security of the United States will suffer from the increase in global mistrust generated by massive espionage.

The events to which I have referred have also revealed other very disturbing realities. To start off with, it has re-ignited the debate on the right to asylum, which all human beings have, as enshrined in international law, as well as the ability of any sovereign State to grant it. This is a right that is granted to avoid fear of political persecution; its legitimacy can only be determined by the country granting it. Let us also remember its peaceful and humanitarian nature, which cannot in any case be described as unfriendly towards any other State, as established in General Assembly resolution 2312 (XXII), on territorial asylum. I should also like to quote Ms. Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the case at hand:

> "Snowden's case has shown the need to protect persons disclosing information on matters that have implications for human rights, as well as the importance of ensuring respect for the right to privacy."

Leaders, who should be giving explanations and facing up to the debate on the limits of what we are discussing, have instead launched a crusade against the right to asylum — a full-on diplomatic offensive against countries that have taken to the global stage to show interest in such an important case. States to the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), have been under pressure, simply because they are considering a request for asylum. All those countries have have signed the 1954 Caracas Convention on Territorial Asylum, which is perhaps one of the most important instruments of the Inter-American human rights system.

The day the United States signs that treaty — even the day it ratifies the San José pact, one of the foundations of the Inter-American system of human rights — we will be closer to seeing that country adhere to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, and it will become a part of a group of equal nations, committed to complying with international law.

Instead of joining this group, we find ourselves with a country that prefers to lunge forwards and blame the messanger in order to cloud the message. The final result was that a group of countries decided to endanger the life of the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, forcing him and his entourage to make an emergency landing in violation of international norms governing respectful relations among nations.

It is not the revelation of the offence that threatens the climate of understanding among nations, it is the offence itself. In a fragile world where armed conflicts are barely affected by international pressure, such actions do not help generate trust but tension.

I would like to conclude with two comments.

First, the Government of Ecuador fully supports the request of the Bolivian Government that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights conduct an exhaustive investigation into the unjustifiable treatment suffered by President Evo Morales Ayma during his trip from Moscow to La Paz.

Secondly, massive global, discretionary and unlimited surveillance must stop. It is for the Security Council to urgently make that demand of one of its permanent members, since, theoretically, it is up to this body to maintain peace on our planet. That, too, is the demand of Latin America, a zone of peace that, through organizations such as MERCOSUR and ALBA, has demanded an end to those practices. It is also required by the spirit of coexistence, which inspired the drafting of the Charter of the United Nations. It is also the appeal of billions of people in the world who understand that any action that aims to ensure the security of a country has its limits, which are the human rights of everyone on the planet.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Casimir (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the Government of Haiti, allow me, first of all, to congratulate you, Madam President, for taking the initiative to convene this debate on such an important issue, that is, cooperation between the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace.

Cooperation between the United Nation and regional organizations in maintaining peace is longstanding. The principle underpinning it is enshrined in the

Charter of the United Nations, specifically in Chapter VIII, Articles 53 and 54.

The United Nations not only recognizes regional organizations as fully fledged actors in peaceful conflict resolution but also stipulates that the Security Council, without renouncing its monopoly to authorizing the use of force, except in the event of legitimate defence, can confer upon a regional organization the mandate for applying enforcement measures taken under its authority.

The past two decades have seen a significant growth in the role of regional and subregional organizations in peacekeeping organizations, especially in Africa, Europe and the Americas. The proliferation of regional conflicts, accompanied all too often by their ensuring tragedies and atrocities, has made cooperation between the United Nations and regional institutions a mainstay of international relations. To see that, one need look no further than a number of peacebuilding or peacekeeping operations carried out in recent years on virtually every continent and in a large number of countries dealing with the scourge of war, conflicts of all kinds, political upheavals and civil war.

My own country, the Republic of Haiti, has undergone a terrible and extreme political upheaval, making its own descent into hell, from which, fortunately, it is now emerging with the assistance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. In that regard, I would like to thank the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Common Market of the South, the Union of South American Nations, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, the Caribbean Community and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System for their constant attention and interest in Haiti. I would like to recall that during the past 25 years, my country of Haiti has been subject to several interventions by our multilateral Organization and by regional and subregional organizations, and sometimes both together. I have in mind the joint Organization of American States/United Nations mission to which the Secretary-General referred in his statement this morning. While commending such international solidarity, we must nevertheless recognize, as the representative of Cuba emphasized in his statement, that missions must align themselves with the priorities defined by the Haitian Government so that we will not have to go down the same road, for the same reasons, in a few years' time. It is thus Haiti's fervent wish that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which is currently deployed in our country, should achieve the goals it was created for. To that end, it can count on the assistance of the Haitian Government in furthering the welfare of the people of Haiti and achieving peace and security in the region.

However, we are compelled to conclude that, despite the inarguably spectacular development and success of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, when it comes to maintaining peace it still falls well short of the level that its potential might lead one to hope for, and that the international community has the right to expect. And despite its successes, there are still many challenges, particularly regional organizations' lack of resources. The Republic of Haiti is one of many that believe that — given the maturity that regional organizations have acquired over time, the configuration of the world today and the constantly evolving international situation — a new model is needed for relations between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of the maintenance of peace.

We should recall that as far back as 20 years, ago the Secretary-General was already calling for a model based on decentralization and delegation of authority in An Agenda for Peace (S/24111). Yes, various coordination and consultation mechanisms exist, and the record of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is far from negligible. Haiti is happy to bear witness to that. But as was recently emphasized again in Security Council resolution 2033 (2012), there is a feeling today that it is essential, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter, to combine the international legitimacy and legality of the United Nations with the advantages of regionalism.

It is therefore incumbent on the international community today to bridge that gap, as the Security Council has called on us to do. We must effectively reforge and renew the essential partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, basing it on well-defined principles and endowing it with a precise legal framework and the resources necessary to allow those regional organizations to fully play their due role alongside the United Nations in a spirit of complementarity and in every area where their cooperation is desirable. The Secretary-General of the Organization of American States would not disagree with this, whether the issue is one of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, electoral assistance, humanitarian action or monitoring respect for human rights.

In that spirit, the Republic of Haiti will continue to work with all who believe that the role and involvement of regional organizations in maintaining international peace is now more essential than ever and should continue to grow in the future. In welcoming the initiative taken to institute this dialogue, I trust that it will open new lines of thought and for concrete action aimed at continued cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Organization of American States.

Mr. Insulza: I would like to begin by greeting the Argentinian presidency of the Security Council, led today by Her Excellency Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. I would like to thank her for giving us the opportunity to share our experience of regional and subregional efforts in the area of international peace and security.

Article 1 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) stipulates that "[w]ithin the United Nations, the Organization of American States is a regional agency". Article 2 adds that the Organization,

> "in order to put into practice the principles on which it is founded and to fulfill its regional obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, proclaims the following essential purposes: (a) To strengthen the peace and security of the continent".

There is no more essential or valuable area of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations than the maintenance of peace and security. That goal suggests the essence of multilateralism — achieving peace and harmony among nations, within a framework of respect for the law and creating a climate of security for all. The States of the Americas and their regional organization, the oldest expression of multilateralism in the world, have always been guided by those principles and have contributed, through their own reality and as their own abilities permit, to their spread and vigour on a global scale.

Thus, along with the foundation of the OAS in 1948, we signed the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement, the Pact of Bogotá, which since it was established has formed the foundation for settling every possible conflict situation that has developed in our region over the years. That instrument, together with others signed during the period of the Panamerican Union and after 1948, has succeeded, over more than half a century of multilateral action, in making our continent the most peaceful region in the world. It is a region that during this period has not been involved in any conflicts on a global level or been a theatre for significant armed conflicts between its countries. It has, however, endured internal conflicts that have unfortunately frequently led to violence and disruption of the political process.

Since 1966, the OAS has not deployed military missions of any kind and the implicit decision has been taken not to do so, in the understanding that one way of strengthening international institutions is to respect the primacy of the Security Council in that area. The occasions that have required such deployment have been few and far between, and when they have required missions with a military component, they have been organized by the United Nations, with the OAS supporting them in tasks of a civilian nature, or deploying its own civilian missions, with particular attention to restoring the democratic process. That is what happened in the cases of Haiti, El Salvador and Nicaragua, as well as, among more recent ones, Colombia, with the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia, the Mission to the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone and the Good Offices Mission in Ecuador and Colombia, between 2007 and 2009. The Haiti, Colombia and Guatemala-Belize Missions are still active.

At the same time, the OAS has undertaken tasks aimed at remedying the most lasting effects of internal conflicts. Our demining programme has already achieved the goal of declaring Central America a territory free of anti-personnel mines. This year our firearm destruction programme has destroyed thousands of weapons, many of them dating to the period of internal conflicts, with others related to the criminality that plagues the region. Furthermore, regional treaties or conventions have strengthened peace in our hemisphere.

In the context of security, the key treaties and conventions consist of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which enshrines the principles of non-intervention, sovereign equality, peaceful settlement of disputes, collective self-defence in case of aggression, respect for fundamental human rights and strengthened representative democracy; the aforementioned American Treaty on Pacific Settlement, which describes all available means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, good offices and mediation, investigation and conciliation protocols, arbitration and judicial procedures, including appeals to the International Court of Justice; the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean; the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions; the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials; the 2003 Declaration on Security in the Americas; the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the American Convention on Human Rights, also known as the Pact of San José; and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and eradication of Violence against Women, also known as the Convention of Belém do Pará.

It should also be mentioned that the OAS actively promotes the signing and ratification of all conventions on limiting and prohibiting arms and armaments, under the framework of the United Nations. Also included in the list are defensive white papers and consolidated confidence- and security-building measures, which have made a major contribution to forging a culture of respect for peace and security in the region. I have not included the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, known as the Rio Treaty, which was signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1947, one year before the creation of the OAS, as it is not currently in operation and has not been fully implemented in the inter-American system.

Despite the long period of peace experienced in the region and the fact that most conflicts have been resolved, the Americas still face various security threats that are very different from armed conflict, but which produce significant damage. I am referring specifically to threats posed by organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as increased natural disasters and the risk of pandemics. That multiple reality led to the formulation, in the Special Conference on Security held in Mexico in 2003, of a new doctrine and fundamental guiding principles on multilateral action in the field of peace and hemispheric security, based on the concept of multidimensional security. The concept was developed in the inter-American sphere, along with the concept of human security, which has been adopted by the United Nations and promoted by like aspirations.

The multidimensional nature of security establishes complementarity among the subjects and actors related to security based on sovereignty and armed forces of the States of the region, and new issues and actors related to the identification of new threats, including crime and natural disasters. That concept of multidimensional security enjoys full legal force and was adopted by nearly all States members of the OAS and ratified at the 2004 summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. It thereby acquired official status and currently guides decisions in the security field, adopted by the Organization of American States.

In that context, a great number of ongoing projects could be cited, among which I will mention only one, due to Argentina's important role, namely, the Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty. Also known as the White Helmets Initiative, it was adopted in 2007 by the OAS General Assembly and faithfully expresses the concept of multidimensional security.

With the increase in violent activity, our capacity for cooperative and collective action is being tested, not only within our region but also in the extra-regional bodies of the United Nations system. The OAS has expanded its work to other areas, especially those related to drug trafficking. We recently submitted a report that was requested by the Heads of State last year. Organized crime, trafficking in persons and weapons, and other crimes generate high rates of violence in some countries of the region, despite the absence of armed conflict. Those issues have assumed a higher profile than the more traditional security issues. The OAS has worked with specialized United Nations agencies, and such action has been strengthened. In that context, I note our work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and other OAS entities to develop and complement regular consultations and actions of the United Nations.

At the beginning of this statement, I recalled the character of the Organization of American States as a regional body of the United Nations. It follows that the areas of current and potential cooperation between the two organizations are much broader than those described in these few minutes. They include issues related to the strengthening of democracy, comprehensive development, the environment, the defence of vulnerable groups, promotion of equal rights and gender equity, among others.

I must therefore conclude by reaffirming our desire to cooperate with the main body of the international system in all areas of its activity, among which the issues related to the maintenance of peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes represent a fundamental aspect.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vrailas: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Let me first congratulate you, Madam President, on assuming this month's presidency of the Security Council and welcome Argentina's choice of the important topic of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations for its opening debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for his statement and the representatives of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the African Union, the Union of South American Nations and the League of Arab States, for their briefings.

In the light of the many challenges to peace and security, it is clear that the United Nations cannot address these alone, but that regional organizations often have an essential role to play. They can contribute their understanding of local and regional conflicts and their root causes, as well as their capacity to respond. Their capacity to contribute is, in itself, important. Enhanced regional capabilities for peacekeeping and conflict prevention are a prerequisite for strengthening regional ownership and responsibility for crisis management.

Those capabilities require support, also among regions. As Council members know, the European Union and its member States provide substantial support for the capacity-building of regional organizations, both political and financial. For example, the EU is an important donor to the African Union African peace and security architecture and supports early warning and crisis response activities of the League of Arab States.

As the Secretary-General stressed in his statement today, cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union is both geographically and substantially wide-ranging. Allow me to briefly address some of the areas of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations that we deem of particular importance in that context, and to share our own experiences in that regard.

First is peacekeeping. The European Union and its member States welcome the increased attention given to the role of regional organizations in peacekeeping. The challenges of today's United Nations peacekeeping operations — including the ever-increasing demands for their deployment — highlight the need for increased cooperation with and capacity-building of regional organizations.

Over the years, the EU has, in many locations, provided operational, financial and political support to United Nations peacekeeping efforts. The 12 completed and 16 ongoing Common Security and Defence Policy operations of the European Union — both military and civilian, on several continents — bear testimony to that support.

The EU will continue to look for ways to enhance its direct support to United Nations peacekeeping based on an action plan that we adopted last year. Those actions range from hybrid, parallel and sequential deployment to logistics support relationships and joint training activities.

Such cooperation cannot start early enough. A joint EU-United Nations assessment team recently visited Mali to assess the support requirements of the Mali police and in the area of counter-terrorism.

Similarly, in crisis management, as well as early peacebuilding, regional organizations can develop a mutually supportive relationship with the United Nations. In those areas, the EU has over the years developed a close relationship with the United Nations, including through cooperation between our respective missions. In 2003, we agreed to a joint declaration on United Nations-EU cooperation in crisis management, which was complemented and reinforced by a further joint statement in June 2007.

As an example, we were able to provide timely support for the rapid setting up of the United Nations

Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. Similarly, our ongoing dialogue and cooperation regarding Mali illustrates how we can establish mutually supportive solutions in crisis management and early peacebuilding.

Also in terms of conflict prevention, longer-term peacebuilding and mediation-strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the relevant regional and subregional organizations can bear fruit.

For the EU, the United Nations remains a key partner in all of those areas. To that end, a mechanism has been established to allow regular policy-level contacts between EU and United Nations services. Moreover, the EU continues to support specific activities in those areas where the United Nations may be best placed to take matters forward in the field. That support also translates into substantial funding.

Finally, we want to emphasize the overall importance of the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, both between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as well as among regional organizations themselves.

Regional organizations can learn a lot from the experience of the United Nations. For the EU, for example, our cooperation with the United Nations in the area of conflict prevention has a strong element of experience-sharing. To further promote such exchanges, we are exploring several possibilities for the better linking up of our work in the field. We also hope that we can bring our experience in conflict prevention to other regional organizations, including on preventing conflict over resources such as water and energy-related challenges through subregional strategies and institutions.

To conclude, every regional organization has an inherent historical background, distinct objectives and a diverse membership. The concept paper (S/2013/446, annex) shared by the Argentine presidency rightly points out that differences in capacity, vision, mandates and objectives pose a clear challenge to elaborating an overarching framework.

In formulating strategies for cooperation, we should therefore approach our efforts to strengthen global and regional cooperation in a results-oriented and pragmatic manner. There is no one size fits all. But we can and should learn from one another's experiences. That is why today's discussions are so valuable, so we can jointly grow the important partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to remind all speakers that they should limit their statements to a maximum of four minutes, so that the Security Council can carry out its work expeditiously. I would therefore ask all delegations wishing to make lengthy statements to be kind enough to distribute their texts in writing and to present orally in the Chamber an abbreviated version of their comments.

I now give the floor to the representative of Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Kydyrov (Kyrgyzstan) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me at the outset to voice my gratitude to the Argentine presidency of the Security Council for having convened this open debate on a theme that is so important to the international community. I should like also to point out that Kyrgyzstan is currently chairing two organizations, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and that my statement will consist of two parts, one on behalf of each organization.

It is my honour to speak on behalf of the member States of the CSTO: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. The members of our regional organization believe that the United Nations is the linchpin of international relations and equitable international cooperation. It commands universal legitimacy and has at its disposal the powers required to respond appropriately to the multitude of contemporary threats and challenges.

At the same time, a milestone in the current stage of development of international relations has been the growing influence of regional organizations. In this day and age, the effective work of regional entities is an important component in the emergence of a new global architecture, and their efforts on the basis of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations have significantly aided the United Nations in carrying out the functions and powers vested in it by the international community.

A key role in such processes has been played by the associations and organizations active in the Commonwealth of Independent States space, including the CSTO. The CSTO plays a pivotal role in ensuring peace and stability in its area of operations. The CSTO, which has emerged as a political and legal instrument of mutual assistance in the event of foreign aggression, has in the 10 years of its existence fundamentally changed; it has become a key player in the emergence of the system of collective security in the CIS space.

Today the CSTO is a multifunctional structure with the potential for a rapid response to a plethora of threats and challenges. The CSTO plays a significant role in combating terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, organized crime and illegal migration, including with a view to strengthening security and stability in Central Asia.

We note with satisfaction the progressive development of interaction between the United Nations and the CSTO. In December 2004 our organization was granted observer status in the General Assembly. The significance of the interaction between the United Nations and the CSTO was highlighted by the adoption of resolutions at the sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth and sixty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the CSTO. Those documents represented a recognition of the rich potential of comprehensive interaction between the two organizations and galvanized its intensification.

The development of contacts also was expressed in the signing of a joint declaration on cooperation between the secretariats of the two organizations in March 2010. Meetings between the Secretaries-General of the two organizations are now held on a regular basis. In the light of the dynamics of development in Afghanistan, we have seen a productive continuation of the contacts between the CSTO and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia as well as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

We have established useful contacts with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. The CSTO's successes also include interaction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). We have conducted exchanges of information and participated in the CSTO's pre-emptive counter-narcotics Operation Canal. Operation Canal, as well as the assistance provided by CSTO member States in connection with the transit of cargo for the international forces in Afghanistan, is an example of effective interaction among CSTO member States in countering the threats and challenges to security emanating from Afghanistan.

We believe that the need for the coordination of approaches and for the development and implementation of an agreed approach to Afghanistan by all international players that care about the country is deeply relevant. Among the most promising areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the CSTO is peacekeeping. A significant contribution to interaction in that respect was the signing in September 2012 of a memorandum of understanding between the CSTO secretariat and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations. That document paves the way for practical cooperation in the field of peacekeeping. The CSTO peacekeeping mechanism offers the possibility of using the Organization's capabilities in peacekeeping operations, including under the auspices of the United Nations. In that regard, it is worth remembering that the goals of the CSTO, which has become an international regional organization with the entry into force of its Charter on 18 September 2003, are to strengthen peace and international and regional stability, and to collectively protect the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of its member States.

Moreover, the priority for CSTO members in achieving those objectives is to use political means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The results of the CSTO's activities reflect the genuine potential for interaction with the United Nations on the basis of the principles of partnership and complementarity of efforts.

(*spoke in English*)

I now have the honour to make a statement on behalf of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. I also have the honour to confirm that all members of our regional organization accord special attention to strengthening cooperation with the United Nations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. We are united in our understanding that, in accordance with the Charter, the Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The aspirations of the SCO member States are closely interlinked with the goals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We seek to transform the SCO area into a region of lasting peace, friendship and prosperity. General Assembly resolution 67/15 on cooperation between the United Nations and the SCO, adopted in November last year, acknowledged the important role of the SCO in securing peace and sustainable development, advancing regional cooperation and strengthening good-neighbourliness and mutual trust.

We are developing our cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism and the fight against separatism and extremism; inter alia, we have created the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure. Some other areas of cooperation include non-proliferation and combating transnational organized crime. Tackling problems of international information security is also a priority.

At the July meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, it was stressed that peace and stability in the whole region depends on the situation in Afghanistan. The central role of the United Nations in international efforts to achieve an Afghan settlement was confirmed, and we expressed our support for the aspirations of the peoples of Afghanistan for peaceful recovery and revival. The SCO supports efforts to make Afghanistan an independent, peaceful, neutral and prosperous country free of terrorism and drug-related crime.

Cooperation between the SCO and the United Nations has a solid international legal basis. Our organization has had observer status in the General Assembly since 2004, and the Assembly has adopted three resolutions on cooperation between our organizations. The Joint Declaration on Ccooperation, signed in Tashkent in 2010, between the secretariats of the two organizations is a good illustration of the growing authority of the SCO, its focus on the expansion of external relations and the creation of a partnership network of multilateral organizations and forums.

The memorandum of understanding between the SCO secretariat and the UNODC was signed with a view to enhancing the cooperation between the United Nations and the SCO. It aims specifically at effectively tackling the problems of the production, trade and trafficking of narcotic drugs originating in Afghanistan. Another important document is the protocol on cooperation between the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and the UNODC. Important elements of effective regional cooperation include consistent implementation of the 2011-2016 Anti-Drug Strategy and Action Plan, the creation of an effective system of joint countermeasures aimed at combating the drug threat and establishing reliable barriers to the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychoactive substances and their precursors.

In order to actively contribute to the economic development of the countries of the region and boost the welfare of its peoples, the economic component of the cooperation among the SCO countries continues to play a pivotal role. A close interaction has been established between our Organization and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

We are convinced that further strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations and the SCO will contribute to the realization of the goals and objectives of the United Nations with a view to deepening comprehensive cooperation aimed at tackling the political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems of the modern world.

The forthcoming summit of the SCO heads of State on 13 September in Bishkek in the Kyrgyz Republic is aimed at giving a new impetus to furthering the development of the organization and the strengthening of its standing in the international arena. We are confident that the outcome of the Bishkek summit will form an appropriate basis on which long-term security in the region and expanding trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian relations will be ensured.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Montaño y Martínez (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico welcomes the initiative of the Republic of Argentina to convene this open debate on United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

Providing peace and security to citizens is a duty of States. To achieve those objectives in a world as globalized as ours is today, international dialogue, cooperation and the exchange of information and best practices are crucial.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the trafficking in small arms, transnational organized crime, climate change and food insecurity, among others, are challenges that threaten and hinder the maintenance of international peace and security.

Regional and global organizations have a key role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the development of mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and multilateral cooperation. They also have a role to play in the protection of human rights, institutional development, the consolidation of the rule of law and the promotion of respect for international law.

In these lofty aims, Mexico recognizes the important role played by the Organization of American States in our region as a promoter of cooperation in the Americas, which is becoming a strategic partner of the United Nations at the regional level. We also believe that the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States has a major and specific role to play, which is to strengthen and ensure that dialogue prevails among all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to find areas of convergence so as to maximize cooperation .

We also acknowledge the special role of bodies, mechanisms and processes, such as the Association of Caribbean States, the Central American Integration System, MERCOSUR and the Union of South American Nations, in promoting greater integration, and hence greater development and a higher quality of life for citizens. All of those institutions seek, from different angles to build a prosperous, democratic and peaceful world that fosters the development of their citizens' potentials.

In October we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted by the Organization of American States and which was a result of a special conference on security, held in Mexico on 28 October 2003. The Declaration on Security in the Americas recognized that the threats and challenges to security in our hemisphere and concerns about security are diverse in nature and multidimensional in scope. Similarly, the American nations believe that the basis and rationale for security is the protection of the human person in every aspect. To achieve that objective, it is essential to adopt an approach that includes promoting economic and social development, social inclusion and education.

In order to improve security conditions, American States have committed themselves to addressing extreme poverty and social exclusion, ensuring universal access to basic health services, promoting a democratic culture through education for peace and strengthening civil society participation in what we believe to be, fundamentally, the development of a multidimensional approach to security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Khalil (Egypt) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you, Madam President, on having assumed the presidency of the Security Council for August.

(*spoke in English*)

I would also like to commend the choice of the subject for the first Council debate of this month. Synergy between international, regional and subregional organizations is a prerequisite for the success of peace and security efforts. That issue has been discussed before and should be revisited anew to address different aspects and strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

The Security Council has the primary jurisdiction over matters relating to international peace and security. However, full regional, subregional and national participation in Security Council peace and security efforts is necessary in order to ensure a sufficient level of ownership and familiarity for regional parties to every conflict. The engagement of the relevant regional organizations is crucial for the success of United Nations peace efforts at the various stages of responding to a conflict, including early warning, conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict peacebuilding.

In the Middle East, cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States is indispensable. The establishment of the mission of the Joint Special Representative for Syria is just one example of the potential cooperation between the two organizations. Such cooperation should extend to conflict prevention and resolution. It can also help in finding lasting solutions to the two major chronic problems of the region that have had a negative impact on regional and international peace and security: the Palestinian question and the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

The United Nations can benefit from the regional convening power and consensus-building of both the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. For that to happen, the Security Council should be more responsive to the regional mechanisms.

Consultations should take place on a more regular basis, and consultations should have concrete outcomes.

A shared role between the United Nations and regional organizations for peacekeeping is both desirable and achievable. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur is a case in point. It stands out as the most prominent example of cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization in the field of peacekeeping. However, hybrid peacekeeping operations continue to be the exception, not the rule. In Africa, we should have more hybrid operations with a predominantly African character.

It is necessary to expand African capacity to meet peace and security challenges. That could be achieved through more streamlining and coordination between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. Consolidating and securing financial resources is another obstacle that should be overcome. It is worth noting that the 2008 Prodi panel report (S/2008/813) on African Union/United Nations cooperation recommended a multi-donor trust fund to support peacekeeping in Africa, based on African ownership. After five years, that recommendation has yet to be implemented.

Finally, international peace and security originate in regional peace and security. The efforts of the United Nations will not be successful without the direct support of regional stakeholders and the organizations that represent them.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): New Zealand congratulates Argentina on the priority it has given to this very important issue. We recognize and applaud the strength and relevance of the Latin American regional organizations that are represented here today. In the Pacific, we are also very well served by our own regional organizations, which have restored security when violence has threatened lives and stability. Just last month, in Honiara on Solomon Islands, regional leaders celebrated the success of the 10-year-long Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

We therefore share the sentiments expressed today about the importance of strong and effective regional institutions and their competitive advantage through proximity, in-depth knowledge, commitment and local accountability. We would say that proper use of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations can be a critical contributor to international peace and security, as expounded this morning by the Secretary-General and others. But we also share the realism expressed today about the need, in difficult cases, for regional efforts to be backed up or supplemented by the United Nations and the Security Council in particular. We also share the African Union's optimism, as expressed on its behalf by the representative of Ethiopia, that its African Peace and Security Architecture can address regional challenges. But we also share African concerns, as just voiced by the representative of Egypt, that the Security Council is simply not doing enough to respond to the hopes and expectations of the African Union (AU) and African regional and subregional organizations.

There seem to us to be two distinct elements to the problem. First is the concern that, sometimes, the Security Council can overshadow and effectively marginalize the AU and other regional institutions and, conversely, in other cases, the Council is often too passive or is not responsive in a timely manner.

It is not enough for the Security Council to adopt statements of good intention. What is needed is a new, practical willingness to extend the Council's capacity to interact in a collective way that builds real partnerships with the regions. To achieve this, the Council must be perceptive and flexible in responding to particular situations.

Sometimes, effective cooperation and partnership will require urgent Council political action of a preventive kind. Sometimes it will mean the consideration of strong deterrent measures. Other times it will require the use of the Council's unique capacity to provide financial, logistical and even military support to assist regional efforts. Sometimes it will require decisions to deploy a full-scale United Nations operation.

Right now, the model developed for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur is causing dissatisfaction on all sides, and that is hardly surprising, given its history. Instead, New Zealand would like to see a focus, by the Council and by regional organizations, on building practical partnerships at a much earlier stage of an emerging problem. The Security Council and regional organizations should be working together in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution. We therefore echo

Ethiopia's call on behalf of the AU for more effective, results-focused consultations with the Council and regional organizations. Regional actors can, as the representative of Egypt has just emphasized, contribute in-depth knowledge and longstanding relationships with key local stakeholders, with whom they often share linguistic, cultural and historical ties. Such ties can be crucial for generating the trust and engagement required for successful mediation, and they can prove useful in supporting civil society constituencies for building and sustaining peace.

At the global level, only the United Nations has the power to levy assessed contributions from all Member States, but this Council can also bring into play other assets, such as institutional weight and impact and the capacities of Member States with wide experience of similar issues in other parts of the world, and it can provide neutral perspectives. A real partnership along those lines, including the hybrid missions advocated by Egypt, could also be very useful in reducing the incoherence that sometimes bedevils conflict prevention, with overlap between the United Nations, bilateral and regional organizations and actors.

To make progress on this important agenda item, we believe that the Council must take a step that would involve cultural change. Formats like the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa could be a very useful entry point for forging the kind of partnership we are suggesting. But, for that to be meaningful, working methods must be adapted to allow regional and subregional organisations and their members to be meaningfully engaged. We are convinced that only through active conflict prevention under Chapter VI and effective engagement with regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII can we hope to reduce the demand for hugely expensive peacekeeping operations; and, above all, we must address the enormous human, social, environmental and financial costs of armed conflict. In Chapters VI and VIII we have the tools, and New Zealand urges that, by working together, the Council and regional and subregional organizations should put them to very good use.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Representative of Honduras.

Mr. Suazo (Honduras) (*spoke in Spanish*): My Ambassador has asked me to convey her greetings to Council President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. Her presence today in the Council and the fact that Argentina has called for this open debate on regional organizations and their role in the international sphere provide a clear example of Latin America's ability to bring together such a large number of ministers and representatives of regional organizations. In my experience at the United Nations I have never seen such a large group of dignitaries in an open debate of the Council.

We appreciate the statements made by the President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba. We support the ideas that he expressed in his statement. We also welcome the presence of the Secretary-General this morning and the message he delivered to the Council.

We know now that no State can act alone or in isolation. The globalized world and the progress in industrial technology, cyber communication and information technology make us increasingly interdependent. That is a reality. Thus we face dangerous threats and problems collectively, and that is why this debate is very important to the State of Honduras, which firmly believes in multilateralism and the role of international organizations. That is also the reason why we were one of the founding members of the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Central American Integration System (SICA), among others. And we are firmly committed to continuously strengthening regional and subregional mechanisms, which should play a role in international peace and security. Such regional and subregional organizations must also, in our opinion, actively fight against the scourge of international terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons. Above all, such efforts should be carried out with the decisive cooperation of the United Nations.

The collective efforts of regional organizations and the United Nations are all the more crucial for the development of programmes and projects of a regional and subregional nature that are designed to counter the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters and promote the coordination of international humanitarian assistance. The whole spectrum of regional and subregional cooperation in its humanitarian dimension is an invaluable element for coordination and cooperation. Here, in this debate, it takes on a human face. We believe that the commitment of States to strengthening cooperation with international, regional and subregional bodies is the highest expression of multilateralism.

In its previous meeting on this topic the Council agreed that regional organizations are in a unique position to understand the causes of conflicts and other security problems, pointing out that we should take advantage of the current and potential capacity of regional and subregional organizations and encourage the countries in every region to resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue, reconciliation, consultation and negotiations, as well as good offices, mediation and the settlement of disputes through legal means (see S/PV.6257).

The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guatemala mentioned the democratic and peaceful vocation of Central and Latin America, and he described how from the Contadora Group we arrived at CELAC. Central America is a clear example of how the United Nations and its peace operations can be a success today. We have a Central American Parliament, we have an integration system, a Central American Bank, a Central American Court of Justice, and we are currently further strengthening our expectations through international cooperation.

Since the United Nations is not equipped to tackle all of the crises of the world alone, we have to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in order to maintain international peace and security. While it is true that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security, cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations would not only lighten the burden for the Council but would also provide greater legitimacy with the participation of regional partners in times of crisis.

In that regard, cooperation between the United Nations and the different regional and subregional organizations must achieve a higher level of cooperation and avoid a duplication of efforts and financial resources and avoid the squandering of efforts, financial resources and time. Communication channels must exist between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations that would enable both parties to be sure that they are on right track to achieve their common goals. In the same spirit, we welcome today's presidential statement, which achieved a consensus under the leadership of Argentina. It is not always easy to achieve a consensus in the Council, and we are sure that it will make a special contribution to the urgent need to develop effective partnerships that could smooth the way for the tasks envisaged.

Lastly, Honduras is fully convinced that, despite the difficulties and obstacles that exist, the international community can benefit, in the process of maintaining peace and security, from a balance between the sound knowledge of a conflict that a regional organization might have and the legitimacy and authority of the Security Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

Mr. Le Hoai Trung (Viet Nam): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 10 States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, and the Argentine Republic on assuming the functions of President of the Security Council for the month of August. We wish Argentina all the best of success.

In the past few years, we have witnessed enormous changes, and new paradigms in international peace and security have emerged. Hence, it is critical to strengthen regional-global cooperation and coordination. Indeed, from Europe to Asia, from Africa to the Americas, regional organizations have displayed a more active role in the maintenance of peace and security. In our region, 10 South-East Asian countries are building an ASEAN community as envisioned in the ASEAN Charter. Over the years, ASEAN has increasingly become a central component of the regional architecture. Important regional arrangements, with ASEAN at the core, in particular the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus, have proven to be effective forums for dialogue and consultation on regional security and beyond.

In its efforts to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond, ASEAN attaches great importance to cooperation with the United Nations. Since the previous Council debate on this topic in January 2012 (see S/PV.6702), that cooperation has been improved in a comprehensive manner.

First, ASEAN-United Nations cooperation has been institutionalized with the adoption of a Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations. Under that framework, periodic ASEAN-United Nations interactions have been established at various levels, including at high levels, through ASEAN-United Nations summits and annual meetings between the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. The Comprehensive Partnership has also established priority areas of cooperation, which include mediation and good offices, non-traditional security issues, counter-terrorism, the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, food and energy security, climate change, ASEAN connectivity, culture and education. In addition, a resolution on ASEAN-United Nations cooperation has been adopted biennially by consensus in the General Assembly, of which the latest was resolution 67/110, which stresses the need for continued and increased coordination for the concrete realization of elements of cooperation contained therein.

Secondly, ASEAN member States have actively and constructively contributed to the work of the United Nations in the field of peace and security. Individually and collectively, ASEAN States have initiated or have taken part in negotiations of important General Assembly resolutions on peace and security. They have become members and have chaired groups within the framework of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly. As of June 2013, ASEAN member States had contributed nearly 4,000 peacekeepers to 13 out of 16 United Nations peacekeeping missions, and more are expected with the recent announcement by Viet Nam, my country, of its intention to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations in early 2014.

Thirdly, ASEAN and the Secretariat have expanded activities in the implementation of the comprehensive partnership. The Secretariat and other United Nations bodies have provided expertise and cooperated closely with ASEAN and other partners in organizing workshops and training courses and in bilateral exchanges on peacebuilding and security-related issues. Notable instances include workshops with various United Nations organizations, including those that have been established by the Council.

The growing ASEAN-United Nations cooperation has been beneficial to international peace and security, as well as to peace and security in the region. Through increased interaction and the expertise and niche capacity of each side, we have been able to complement each other.

For its part, ASEAN continues to be a net contributor to international peace and security. The ASEAN way of incremental interaction, consultation and dialogue could be part of the solution to conflicts and crises elsewhere. Most importantly, such dialogue is crucial to cultivating a culture of peace that promotes restraint, preventive diplomacy and mutual respect, as well as a strong commitment to international law, the Charter of the United Nations, including the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

It is our hope to benefit from continued United Nations support and facilitation for the central role of ASEAN in addressing regional peace and security issues, as well as the ASEAN contribution to the work of the United Nations. Emerging issues, such as climate change, energy security and maritime security, would be better dealt with by increased and diversified cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations, including United Nations specialised agencies. I take this opportunity to express the sincere thanks of ASEAN countries to the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and their leaders for their valuable support and assistance.

In conclusion, ASEAN reiterates its strong commitment to further broadening and deepening cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations, especially in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Permit me at the outset to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the friendly Argentine Republic, and to congratulate her on her country's assumption of the presidency of the Council during the month of August. I would also like to express our appreciation of the initiative taken by Argentina to convene this important debate.

The Charter of the United Nations has established a legal framework for cooperation between the

United Nations and regional organizations. Some of those organizations have proven the important role that they can play in many fields in the interests of Member States, notably in the areas of mediation and the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts, in addition to defending the interests of the Member States and promoting cooperation among them. The complementarity of the efforts of the United Nations and regional organizations on common issues, the foremost of which is the preservation of international peace and security, adds value to their joint work.

Success in those endeavours requires, however, that those efforts be consistent with international law, the objectives and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and related propositions. That leads us to consider what has been mentioned with regard to the role of the League of Arab States as a regional organization that assists in promoting and preserving regional peace and security and in settling issues in the Arab region, such as the situation in my country today.

As the Council is aware, the Syrian Arab Republic is an original founder of the League of Arab States and has played a pivotal role in the history of the cooperative work among Arab States. It has defended the interests of Arab Member States and has been committed to the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League. In spite of all that, it has also been subject to pressures and aggression that have cast a dark shadow on the life of the Syrian people and the country's prosperity.

Syria deeply believes in its Arab roots and nature, and welcomed the engagement of the League of Arab States in settling the Syrian crisis, thinking that it would play a positive role in exposing the facts of the situation and in assisting to put a halt to violence and in supporting the national dialogue launched by the Syrian Government for the settlement of the crisis. In that regard, the Syrian Government has cooperated with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and has remained committed to the implementation of the action plan agreed to by both sides. At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic has opened its doors to Arab observers.

However, Arab States, in particular Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have taken advantage of the unstable situations in some of the States in the region to hijack the decision-making in the League of Arab States and to impose the will of other countries, sometimes through threats and at other times through bribes. They have worked at making the League of Arab States implement or push for external agendas that are not in the interesta of the Arab region or its people. Instead of working for the good of all, the League of Arab States has fallen victim to the hegemony of the petrodollar and cooperated in committing aggression.

The deviation began when the secretariat of the League of Arab States aborted the mission of the Arab observers and obfuscated its results before the Security Council early in the situation that has afflicted my country. The mission had made it clear from the beginning that armed groups were committing acts of terrorism and aggression in various parts of Syria and serving external agendas that threatened the peace, security and stability of the country. It went even further when it issued a number of illegal decisions that were aimed not only at manipulating the role of regional organizations and shirking the responsibility of the League but also at internationalizing the Syrian crisis and calling for external interference in its internal affairs. The last of those decisions provided for cooperation with one of the external opposition parties that is financed by Qatar and Saudi Arabia and, without any right whatsoever, recognized it as the representative of the Syrian people in clear violation of its own Charter, the basics of international law and Arab and international relations.

It went still further when those two countries, despite the objections of another Arab country, exerted pressure to adopt a decision that permits Arab States willing to do so to provide weapons to the Syrian opposition and armed terrorist groups that are also sponsored by the Turkish Government, which funds and arms them and assists them in crossing the border. This clearly undermined the mission of the United Nations Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and constituted a clear admission on the part of some States that they stood on the side of the terrorists in their aggression against Syria, its people, State and institutions, in violation of resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012), which provided for a political settlement of the crisis in Syria.

That decision also obviated the efforts made by the Geneva Conference, in clear violation of the commitments undertaken by Arab States members of the League of Arab States and of the basics of international law, the aims and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2 on the sovereignty of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the non-use of force. That League of Arab States decision also encroached upon the Security Council's role in maintaining international peace and security under Article 24 of the Charter, and its exclusive power under Article 53 to authorize regional organizations to undertake enforcement actions.

All those decisions have only fanned the flames of the Syrian crisis and hindered all efforts to find a political solution thereto. They have harmed the Syrian State and the Syrian people, and supported the terrorism that all countries of the world have pledged to combat.

We call on the League of Arab States to be part of the peaceful political solution, not a part of the problems of the region and the crisis therein, in service of agendas that are not in the interests of the Arab peoples and that promote the so-called phenomenon of the Arab Spring, which is more like a harsh winter that has overshadowed the peace, stability and security of the Arab people.

We call upon the League of Arab States to liberate itself from the hegemony of the petrodollar and return to the tenets of reason and respect for international law and respect for its Charter and its rules of procedure, and to refrain from using terminology that has been used by others to undermine the sovereignty of Arab States and their territorial integrity. We call on the Arab League to work in the interests of Arab causes, foremost of which is putting an end to the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Vitrenko (Ukraine): Madam President, first of all, let me thank you for organizing today's meeting. Ukraine supports the meeting's objectives to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional arrangements in conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The presence with us today of the President of the Argentine Republic attests to the importance that her country attaches to the issue. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of regional and subregional organizations for their respective insights.

While Ukraine aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, I would like to make a few comments in my national capacity.

During its sole period of membership of the Security Council as an independent country in 2000-2001, Ukraine paid particular attention to the strengthening of interaction between the Council and regional organizations based on the principles of effective and clear division of labour, complementarity, added value, comparative advantages and regional ownership. We welcome the progress achieved since then in ensuring closer and more operational cooperation. In that regard, the most recent rehatting experience in Mali comes to mind. Yet the goal of ensuring the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of joint efforts remains as relevant as ever. That is why we fully support today's comprehensive presidential statement aimed at achieving that purpose (S/PRST/2013/12).

As is rightly pointed out in the concept note (S/2013/446, annex), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is one of the two regional organizations that, along with the African Union, enjoy the most established interaction with the Security Council. Since Ukraine has the honour to chair the OSCE in 2013, let me briefly outline some suggestions on how to advance the United Nations/OSCE partnership. For the sake of time, I will confine myself to general remarks, while the full text of the statement will be uploaded to my mission's web page.

As was emphasized by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, before this Council in May (see S/PV.6961), the OSCE is a strong partner of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security in its area. With a comprehensive approach to security and in view of its geographical scope stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE enjoys a unique place among all other regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

In March 2006, the OSCE Permanent Council adopted a Declaration on Cooperation with the United Nations, welcoming Security Council resolution 1631 (2005) and declaring the OSCE's readiness to further strengthen cooperation with the Organization. Consequently, the OSCE has boosted its cooperation with the United Nations in all three dimensions — the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human — with particular attention given to addressing post-conflict challenges, humanitarian needs and transnational threats.

As security challenges continue to evolve, the nature of United Nations/OSCE collaboration must evolve as well, becoming more pragmatic and action-oriented. We should clearly identify areas where the two organizations can most effectively work together or in parallel — but not in competition – guided by the needs and priorities of their member States. In our view, the OSCE should continue to engage closely on mediation with the United Nations and its Friends of Mediation, particularly as the OSCE bolsters its own mediation and mediation support capacity through various measures.

The OSCE will remain committed to supporting the United Nations by helping to create more synergies in key regions of common concern. In particular, the security, political and economic transitions in Afghanistan, as well as the withdrawal of international security forces in 2014, will continue to have security implications for the OSCE area.

Progress in finding sustainable and long-term solutions to the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area is at the top of the Ukrainian chairmanship's agenda. We greatly appreciate the input of the United Nations in solving security and humanitarian issues in the area of conflict in Georgia, within the framework of the Geneva international discussions. The OSCE mission in Kosovo is a key component of the framework of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, providing valuable experience and expertise in institution-building and promoting human rights and engaging actively with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations.

The OSCE pays particular attention to a broad range of transnational threats. That attention encompasses close cooperation with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as interaction on drugs, borders, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We therefore see particular merit in deepening cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). An updated joint action plan with UNODC for 2013-2014 entered into force in April. In the area of policing, the OSCE has developed strong ties with the DPKO's Police Division and is actively cooperating in developing a new United Nations strategic guidance framework for international police peacekeeping. I should recall that in March Ukraine hosted one of the dedicated regional seminars.

The fight against trafficking in human beings remains one of the key issues addressed by the OSCE under Ukraine's chairmanship. In June, the chairmanship held a high-level international conference in Kyiv on combating trafficking in human beings.

Other priorities for the human dimensions of Ukraine's chairmanship include strengthening the freedom of the media. It is worth noting that OSCE's representative for the freedom of media has been engaged in drafting the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which is quite significant in the light of the Council's open debate on that very issue last month (S/PV.7003). The United Nations and the OSCE continually share relevant information in this field.

This list of priority areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE is not exhaustive, and the Ukrainian chairmanship will make every effort to advance our bilateral interaction as comprehensively and effectively as possible. In closing, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's commitment to advancing cooperation between the United Nations and its regional and subregional partners.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, Madam President, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on Argentina's assumption of the Security Council presidency for this month, and to thank you for the invitation to take part in this open debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. I would also like to give special thanks to Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Argentina for presiding over the first part of the meeting.

We all agree about the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. The Charter of the United Nations emphasizes the importance of urging regional organizations to work towards the peaceful resolution of local disputes. It also encourages the Security Council to try to resolve such disputes through regional institutions. The growing importance of such cooperation is demonstrated by current trends, some of the most important being, first, the escalation in the number of conflicts and the places where such conflicts occur around the world. In the past the Security Council had a limited number of issues to deal with during its regular meetings, but today its agenda is loaded with issues, most of them regional conflicts, making it difficult for the Council to perform its role alone.

Secondly, such local conflicts are displaying increasing levels of difficulty and complexity, owing to the intense influence exerted on them by ethnic, religious, cultural and economic factors, as well as other issues linked to foreign interventions and special interests. That complexity makes it harder to comprehend the nature and complications of the conflicts, the circumstances in which they are created and how they can be overcome, and makes a better understanding of the intricacies and details of local circumstances imperative.

Thirdly, regional organizations, by virtue of their geographic proximity and direct involvement at the local level are in a better position to understand and address local issues.

Fourthly, regional organizations have special capabilities in the areas of preventive diplomacy, early-warning systems, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, although that should not exempt the international community from fulfilling its responsibilities by participating in such tasks.

In that context, the Security Council retains the primary responsibility for ensuring international peace and security. In addition, general humanitarian principles — such as the right of peoples to self-determination; the importance of protecting civilians when their authorities are unwilling or incapable of doing so or, as in the case of Syria, when they seek to exterminate them; the preservation of human rights; the refusal to overlook war crimes and crimes against humanity, and the willingness to hold violators committing these crimes accountable — are basic responsibilities that the Council cannot and should not abandon. Cooperation with regional organizations should be based on shouldering those responsibilities and on upholding the principle of the maintenance of peace and security.

My country has played an active role in resolving a number of regional conflicts in cooperation with relevant regional and subregional organizations, chief among them the leadership role taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in sparing its brother State of Yemen the dangers of a grinding civil war, and to help the people of Yemen find positive and creative solutions to the political crisis in their country. Saudi Arabia will continue to provide economic and political support to our Yemeni brothers until they achieve their aspirations. The supportive role played by the United Nations has had an effective impact and demonstrated the international community's solidarity with the plans and initiatives of the GCC. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sisterly countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council were the first to call for the imposition of a no-fly zone aimed at preventing the perpetration of massacres against the brotherly Libyan people, a call subsequently reiterated by the League of Arab States and the Security Council.

Concerning Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first Arab country to break the wall of silence about the suffering of peaceful demonstrators exposed to bullets, arrests and torture. Saudi Arabia joined its sister countries in the League of Arab States in developing initiatives aimed at saving the Syrian people from bloodshed and enabling them to achieve their legitimate aspirations of freedom, dignity and prosperity.

Unfortunately, the Security Council's failure to adopt the positions of the relevant regional organization, the League of Arab States, has contributed to the escalation of the crisis in Syria and the continuing tragedy there, manifested in the death of tens of thousands of victims and millions of displaced citizens. Thus, while the example of Yemen is one of positive cooperation, that of Syria is a negative example of what can happen when such cooperation is absent. The positions held by some members of the Council not only defy the regional consensus but also contradict the will of the international community, as expressed in several consecutive General Assembly resolutions on Syria.

My delegation stresses the importance of establishing effective mechanisms to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations and those of regional and subregional organizations, in order to enable such organizations to play a more effective role under the umbrella of the United Nations. Such a role would be in harmony with their capabilities, initiatives and expertise and would enable areas affected by conflict to avoid the internationalization of local conflicts, especially when an international body loses its ability to act effectively.

In conclusion, I wish to note that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a member of the Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency group — a cross-regional group of 22 States seeking to improve the working methods of the Security Council — stands for those very principles. Saudi Arabia values the efforts of Council members to engage with the wider United Nations membership in open debates and, accordingly, welcomes today's open debate organized by Argentina.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yamazaki (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Argentine presidency for its leadership in convening this open debate. I would also like to express appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for his briefing, as well as to the representatives of various regional and subregional organizations for their remarks.

Good cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in line with the Charter of the United Nations, are important for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is therefore quite pertinent that the Council should allocate its time to update and assess the ongoing collaboration between them. That is why we find today's open debate timely. I would like to make a few observations on the matter.

First, regional and subregional organizations are well placed to play crucial roles in conflict prevention, mediation and conflict resolution. They have a comparative advantage in playing such roles because of their proximity to conflicts and abundant knowledge of the region and influence on the stakeholders. Japan would like to commend the conflict-preventing, mediating or other peacemaking roles played by such organizations as the African Union in Somalia, the Sudan and South Sudan; the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Mali; the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Central Asia; the Union of South American Nations, in Latin America; and the League of Arab States in addressing recent dramatic changes in the Middle East.

At the same time, the United Nations has played a role in promoting political processes and achieving peace agreements. It would be important for the United Nations to lend its support to supplement the peacemaking efforts of the regional and subregional organizations, when and where necessary.

Secondly, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations can play their respective roles in the area of peacekeeping activities. Regional and subregional organizations can rapidly respond to conflicts in order to settle disputes before they escalate, while the United Nations remains primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security and could intervene, if necessary, with wide-range international resources.

A recent example of this is the situation in Mali. Japan commends the intervention of ECOWAS and the African Union into Mali and the subsequent smooth transformation of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali into the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

Thirdly, we believe there is further room for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. A mechanism such as the annual joint meeting of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council certainly facilitates the harmonization of their respective policies on specific issues related to conflict.

A similar dialogue was held earlier this year between the Security Council and the Political and Security Committee of the European Union. The Secretariat also has held similar consultative meetings with other regional groups, such as the Caribbean Community and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The continuation of those initiatives is encouraged.

The commitment of regional and subregional organizations to the maintenance of peace and security in their respective regions should be commended. In order to help these organizations fulfil their intentions, the international community should strive to support their activities. Japan remains committed to extending its assistance to these organizations. Since 2008, Japan has extended assistance for capacity-building to peacekeeping training centres in 10 African countries — Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa — amounting to $30 million in total. Japan has also provided other assistance to strengthen the African peace and security architecture.

Japan also believes that it is important for the United Nations to reach out to regional and subregional organizations in the fields of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy. In that regard, Japan welcomes the fact that the partnership between the United Nations and ASEAN has been deepened in these fields, and is proud to have supported the initiative of the Secretariat to hold the ASEAN-United Nations Workshop on Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy, in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 and 6 April.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to emphasize that Japan has always paid attention to the enhancement of partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. In that regard, I would like to mention the fact that Japan welcomed the African Union Commission to become one of the organizers of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), which took place in Japan in June, together with the other organizers: Japan, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

TICAD V was a huge success thanks to the participation of 39 African Heads of State and Government and heads of the five organizers, including the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. That multilateral high-level policy forum will certainly serve to create a more dynamic Africa by enhancing economic growth, establishing inclusive and resilient society and ensuring peace and stability in the region.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Nduhuura (Uganda): I congratulate you, Madam President, and the delegation of Argentina, on your leadership of the Security Council this month. I thank you for organizing and presiding over this high-level debate on this important topic. I also thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the African Union (AU), the European Union, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the League of Arab States and the Union of South American Nations for their insightful briefings.

This debate is taking place at a time when the international community is facing and grappling with a number of serious peace and security challenges, including violent conflicts, terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. While we recognize that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is vested in the Security Council, the emphasis should be on quick and strong action through collective efforts. It is also important for the Security Council to continuously evaluate and reflect on whether its diagnoses of conflict situations and the solutions prescribed are correct and not defective.

My delegation would like to underscore the importance of strengthening strategic partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on issues related to the maintenance of peace and security, human rights and development. We would like to commend in that regard the Security Council's continuous prioritization of its engagement with regional and subregional organizations to exchange views on practical ways to strengthen that partnership. The United Nations therefore should optimize the contribution made by such organizations, which have the advantage of proximity and the capability to mobilize and respond quickly.

We are convinced that fostering strategic partnerships will bolster the effectiveness of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations, with immense benefits for the nationals of the Member States. I would like to focus on three fundamental elements that we consider crucial to the success of that cooperation.

First, it is essential for the United Nations and its partners to provide effective, predictable and timely support to regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. These organizations have played a pivotal role in addressing peace and security challenges. For instance, the African Union and subregional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States have undertaken a number of successful peace and security initiatives on the continent. They have contributed in terms of troops, logistics, political leadership and finances, according to the capacity of their member States.

However, in many cases regional and subregional organizations lack the requisite resources and capacity to do so, as the experiences of the African Union Mission in Somalia and the African-led International

Support Mission in Mali have shown. We would like to stress that when the African Union or any other regional or subregional organization undertakes peacekeeping or peace-enforcement initiatives, they shoulder the responsibility of the Security Council and should therefore be adequately supported. The critical issue of financing AU peacekeeping missions authorized by the Security Council — which remains unresolved almost five years since the AU-United Nations panel formerly led by Mr. Romano Prodi made an unequivocal recommendation to consider the use of assessed contributions on a case-by-case basis — should be finalized.

Secondly, it is important to strengthen further cooperation between and among regional and subregional organizations. The AU-European Union Partnership on Peace and Security in support of the African Peace Facility, as a case in point, has been instrumental in enhancing the AU peace support operations, capacity-building and early-response mechanisms.

We call for regular interaction, coordination and consultation between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats and Commissions of regional and subregional organizations on matters of common interest. That will enable them to augment complementarities and avoid duplication of efforts. We further call for transparency. The Council should strive to be more even-handed and transparent in its approach and decisions so as to dispel the perception that on some issues under its consideration, vested interests override fairness.

Thirdly, and in conclusion, the Security Council should take an interest in issues of human security, including social and economic development. There is a great need to stress the linkage between peace and security, and economic development. We are convinced that supporting developmental projects will ably consolidate the peace and security efforts realized so far by the regional and subregional organizations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Mamabolo (South Africa): Let me begin by joining previous speakers in congratulating you, Madam President, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, and your delegation on your assumption of this important role and wishing you success in steering the work of the Council during your presidency. My delegation also aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on behalf of the African Union.

Madam President, South Africa commends you for giving special attention to this important topic during your presidency of the Council. The importance of developing strategic relations between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations cannot be overemphasized. It is evident that to succeed in the implementation of its mandate, the Security Council has to forge a strong partnership with regional and subregional organizations, particularly in promoting international peace and security.

Even more important is the realization that while such organizations may not have sufficient financial resources to resolve conflicts in their own regions, they remain a reservoir of critical knowledge about the nature of such conflicts, including their evolution and dynamics, their understanding of the parties to the conflict and other fundamentals that may be essential for conflict resolution and prevention.

In the case of Africa, new conflict trends, occasioned by intra-State conflicts, have warranted the increased involvement of the African Union (AU), which has a distinct comparative advantage in addressing conflicts in the often complex environments on the continent.

In 2012, South Africa piloted the adoption of resolution 2033 (2012), thus building on resolution 1809 (2008), which was also adopted during South Africa's presidency of the Security Council, in April 2008. Those resolutions encourage an improvement in the regular interaction, consultation and coordination between the two bodies on matters of mutual interest. Moreover, the strategic thrusts of the resolutions are the promotion of political and legislative coherence between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in dealing with African peace and security challenges.

Over time we have seen the benefits of the collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union and its subregional organizations. At the operational level, the Secretariat has been active in supporting the AU's Peace and Security Architecture through the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme. Both organizations also benefit from the deployment of joint technical assessment missions. A further example of such cooperation is the hybrid model, as seen in the African Union-United

Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the African-led International Support mission in Mali, the African Union Mission in Somalia, and, recently, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Force Intervention Brigade.

The debate we are holding today becomes even more pertinent, particularly in Africa, in view of the lessons provided by the Force Intervention Brigade. The Brigade, piloted by the Southern African Development Community and eventually endorsed by the United Nations, brings unprecedented innovations that could eventually serve as a model of United Nations regional collaboration.

Despite those positive developments, challenges in this relationship remain, particularly at the legislative or policy level of the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. Since 2007, the annual meetings between the two Councils have become the central trait of the Council's relationship with the AU. Other than the annual meeting, there is no active engagement between the two Councils. The annual meeting has the potential to move the relationship in a more strategic direction.

I wish to point out here that the collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations has also had its challenges. Perhaps the main painful reminder has been the differences and indecisiveness in resolving the Syrian conflict even as Syria is burning.

Central to the sustainability of peace initiatives are the principles of national ownership and the sovereignty of States, which ought to be respected if we are to create sustainable peace. Steps undertaken by those directly affected by conflicts, however minimal, including by regional and subregional organizations, should be taken into consideration and, where possible, built upon.

South Africa believes that, given the scarcity of financial and human capital, a clear division of labour and productive burden-sharing between the United Nations and regional organizations is critical for sustainable conflict resolution and prevention efforts. We furthermore believe regional organizations could benefit from flexible and predictable financial support from the United Nations and other international institutions.

In conclusion, as the AU celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, clearly the level of maturity of that organization has grown and its capacity to deal with conflict resolution, mediation and peacekeeping has increased. As South Africa, we believe that the cooperation between the United Nations and the region, and its subregional capacity, can further be enhanced to ensure complementarity and minimize the duplication of efforts.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I wish to congratulate Argentina on assuming the presidency of the Security Council; to thank you, Madam President, and your country for organizing this debate; and to welcome and underscore the stewardship of this debate for a large part of today by President of Argentina, Ms. Cristina Fernández.

We welcome presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/12) and we are grateful for the statements by the Secretary-General and the representatives who spoke on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States.

For a country without armed forces such as Costa Rica, international law and the multilateral system are the main tools to protect our integrity. For that reason, we believe that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and agreements is essential in maintaining international peace and security.

The American hemisphere has a wealth of experience in the development of bodies for cooperation and collective security to prevent and settle conflicts and to promote peace and stability. The Organization of American States (OAS), as was previously stated, is the oldest regional organization in the world. Its democratic mandate offers multiple options for mediation, electoral monitoring, justice and the protection of individual and social rights, which are key to peace. The Inter-American system of human rights in particular is an example of independence, relevance and legitimacy.

Following the inception of the OAS, in 1948, there developed in our hemisphere other regional or subregional organizations and agreements with multiple aims and scopes. Among them are the Caribbean Community, the Central American Integration System, the Andean Community, the Common Market of the South, the Union of South American Nations, the Pacific Alliance and the Ibero-American Summits, which span the Atlantic and include Andorra, Spain and Portugal.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which is a collective endeavour, is the broadest and most recent regional mechanism for dialogue and political agreement. Its immediate predecessor was the Rio Group, which, in turn, emerged from the Contadora Group, which was established to seek peace in Central America in the 1980s and shoe contributions contributed to the achievement of peace in 1987, with the Esquipulas II Agreement, promoted by the President of Guatemala, Vinicio Cerezo Arévalo, and President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sánchez, who, as a result of that initiative, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The great success of the Esquipulas process was based on its regional roots, its comprehensive approach to conflict and the effective participation and coordination of the United Nations, the OAS and other regional and international actors in the management and implementation of the accord. Its lessons are extremely relevant to this debate.

Faced with the reality of growing regional and subregional arrangements in the world, with both potential and genuine impact on peace and security, coordination is increasingly necessary in two ways: between the arrangements and organizations themselves as well as between them and the United Nations. On that basis and because of our experiences and aspirations, my delegation wishes to make four proposals.

First, the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, should devote at least the same attention to prevention as it does to the settlement of conflicts. Prevention involves confidence-building, mediation, providing good offices, triggering early warnings and establishing mechanisms to facilitate, implement and monitor agreements. However, true conflict prevention, especially those of a domestic nature, requires addressing the roots of the conflict; respecting human rights; encouraging democratic processes; strengthening the rule of law, good governance and transparency; and creating conditions for development, accountability and the fight against impunity.

Regional and subregional bodies can play key roles in both aspects of prevention. They have in their favour more direct knowledge of national dynamics, closer and more personal contact with the parties, a greater ability to act, greater facility to establish links with the relevant organizations of civil society and probably a particular interest in avoiding or settling conflicts directly affecting their members. For that reason, the United Nations should place particular stress on building capacity for prevention and mediation in regional bodies and support them in those tasks. Support for the International Criminal Court is also part of the preventive diplomacy equation.

Our second recommendation is that cooperation for peace and security between the Security Council and regional bodies should not be limited to only Articles 52 to 54 of the Charter of the United Nations. Equally important, but very much neglected, is Article 26, which gives the Council the mandate to develop plans for the regulation of armaments,

> "[i]n order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources".

The Council must give real expression to Article 26 and channel its cooperation with regional organizations more towards arms control, the regulation of military spending and the prevention of an arms race, which are obvious obstacles to peace and development.

However, many of the tasks entailed in promoting peace and security go beyond the scope of Council action. Therefore, our third recommendation is to boost the organic connections between the entire United Nations system and regional bodies, especially in the systematic drive to prevent and mediate.

Our fourth and final recommendation is that, in order to guide its coordination with regional organizations and arrangements, the United Nations take into account their different legal natures, experience, focus, capacity for execution, institutional strengthening and legitimacy. Given its comprehensive perspective, the United Nations may discern which partnerships to enhance and when, according to different needs and goals. In addition, given its universality, it can act to generate more communication, coherence and synergies between regional entities.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Haniff (Malaysia): Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. Argentina has been one of the leading voices calling for regional cooperation in South America, and the choice of the topic for this high-level open debate clearly demonstrates your astuteness in this area. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his earlier briefing.

Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by the representaive of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

As a firm believer in multilateralism and regionalism, Malaysia recognizes the importance of regional organizations cooperating with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. As one of the founding members of ASEAN, we have strived to create a regional union of States that can concentrate our shared efforts aimed at addressing common challenges. From the outset, ASEAN has faced threats to our collective peace and security, ranging from post-colonial territorial disputes to the non-traditional security issues of today.

As ASEAN has evolved over time, it has also strengthened and deepened its linkages with the United Nations and other international and intergovernmental organizations. That of course includes cooperation with the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. The pace of that cooperation has accelerated, as can be seen in the ASEAN-United Nations comprehensive partnership. This Partnership, which was adopted over a year ago, has already achieved tangible results, such as the exchange of experiences and best practices in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy between ASEAN and United Nations officials.

Peace and security has been one of the major components of political and security cooperation, which has been identified as the first priority area under the ASEAN-United Nations comprehensive partnership. As an initiative to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations on counter-terrorism, including by improving capacity and the exchange of information, Malaysia hosted a workshop and a seminar on international joint investigations on cash courier border controls, held in Kuala Lumpur, in November 2011 and June 2012, respectively. Both the workshop and seminar, which were facilitated by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, aimed at strengthening the capacity of ASEAN member States in joint investigations in the region and in detecting and preventing the illegal cross-border movement of cash. It also emphasized the rule of law and the importance of respecting human rights while countering terrorism. In that regard, Malaysia looks forward to the first review of the comprehensive partnership, which is expected to take place in October.

It would be relevant at this point to also highlight the comprehensive approach taken by Malaysia in addressing threats to regional security, especially within the ASEAN context. We have always argued that it is necessary to address the root causes of such threats, be they underdevelopment, poverty, political disputes or the preservation of national, socio-cultural or ethno-religious identities. We therefore believe that regional security arrangements should also take into consideration such factors in a more holistic approach. At the same time, the broader framework of ASEAN also provides us with policy instruments to tackle the economic and social factors that drive conflicts.

I should also like to point out that, while regional problems require regional solutions, there is also a smaller subset of subregional problems that can be more effectively resolved by subregional solutions. That can be illustrated by using the case of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area. One example that complements the work of the Security Council on the ground is that arrangement's working group on customs, immigration and quarantine. That mechanism has the capacity to enhance existing measures by individual States to prevent the smuggling of small arms and light weapons and the cross-border movement of individuals suspected in terrorism. As such, despite its primary intentions for enhancing economic cooperation, the Growth Area and other subregional organizations have demonstrated the potential to also play a supporting role in the maintenance of peace and security.

In conclusion, ASEAN has been successful in promoting peace and security in its region. My delegation believes that this is due to the consultative and discreet diplomacy that ASEAN members practice, or what is commonly known as the ASEAN way. Therefore, looking at the examples of other regions, we are of the view that there should not be a one-size-fits-all approach to collaborations between the United Nations and regional organizations. Instead, the unique circumstances of a region and its people should be taken into consideration when devising such mechanisms of collaboration.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Çevik (Turkey): At the outset, allow me to congratulate Argentina for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month and to wish you, Madam President, every success. I would also like to express our appreciation for the scheduling of this important debate. And I thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the regional organizations for their statements.

As encouraged in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is of crucial significance in maintaining international peace and security. Although the primary responsibility remains with the Security Council, regional and subregional organizations also play an important role in that regard. That role is clearly spelled out in the Charter, and its importance has been emphasized in various Council resolutions and presidential statements.

We welcome the regional organizations' keen interest in working with the United Nations and further strengthening their cooperation. We hope the Security Council will seize this opportunity to benefit from the insightful perspectives from various regional viewpoints in better facing the urgent challenges that confront us all.

Building upon that renewed commitment, we should explore new and practical patterns of enhanced cooperation and introduce the necessary mechanisms for their implementation. After all, in today's volatile security environment, the United Nations is not capable of dealing alone with all the problems threatening international peace and security. Addressing them entails strong and influential regional partners.

That is particularly the case for peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours. Any contribution by regional organizations in those areas is of great importance, not only for burden-sharing purposes but also to ensure regional ownership. In that regard, we are particularly grateful to organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the African Union and the European Union for their determined efforts and exemplary commitment.

Furthermore, cooperation should not be limited to peacekeeping efforts. Conflict prevention through early warning, political mediation, cooperative interaction, confidence-building, post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction and the protection of civilians, including women and children, are as central as peacekeeping.

Regional organizations have unique perspectives on and a local understanding of conflicts, cultural norms and security challenges in their region, giving them a comparative advantage. In that context, they are making a growing contribution to effectively complementing the work of the United Nations in preventing and resolving conflicts, including through mediation. Turkey, as co-Chair, with Finland, of the Group of Friends of Mediation and its 45 members, recognizes the key role such organizations play in mediation. We therefore welcome the collaboration on mediation, and specifically capacity-building, between the secretariats of the United Nations and the regional organizations as a concrete example of fruitful interaction. The technical assistance provided by the Mediation Support Unit of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs to such organizations has contributed to enhancing their capacities in this very important area.

Turkey is a proud member or has observer status in many of the organizations represented here today. We firmly support the United Nations policy of intensified engagement with regional organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations and the Organization of American States.

We applaud the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, bearing in mind that two-thirds of the work of the Security Council is on issues related to Africa. We commend the remarkable efforts of the African Union and such subregional organizations as the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to ensure peace, security and stability throughout the continent.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which has members on four different continents, plays a particularly unique role in helping to consolidate the foundation of global peace and creating a better understanding between different cultures and religions.

This platform has once more been abused in order to make total misrepresentations that Turkey has already categorically rejected. They cannot dissuade us from standing firmly by the Syrian people, whose voice, unfortunately, cannot be heard here. Before I conclude, I would like to express Turkey's earnest commitment to making every effort to further advance cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It is in that same spirit that we fully support the draft presidential statement prepared by Argentina.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): At the outset, the delegation of Indonesia congratulates you, Madam President, on your presidency for the month of August. We are grateful to you for convening this important open debate, and for your helpful and well-structured concept paper (S/2013/446, annex).

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). We would also like to express our appreciation to the various regional and subregional organizations that have spoken today, and commends them on their work to advance peace in their respective regions.

The subject of this debate is particularly important to Indonesia. Indeed, during our last presidency of the Security Council in November 2007, we also held an open debate on it (S/PV.5776), after which the Council issued presidential statement S/PRST/2007/42. Among other points in that presidential statement, the Council recognized the important role of regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and how such organizations are strongly positioned to understand the root causes of many conflicts and other security challenges close to home and to influence their prevention and resolution.

On 13 January 2010, at the instigation of China, the Council held another debate (S/PV.6257) that focused on the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, stressing the importance of developing effective partnerships. Following that debate, the Council expressed its intention to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of conflict early-warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and to ensure the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts (see S/PRST/2010/1). With that background in mind, my delegation welcomes the adoption of today's presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/12, which reflects and reaffirms many of the important elements from previous presidential statements on the subject.

The greater complexity of current conflicts requires regional and subregional organizations to play a more significant and multidimensional role. In order to carry out the task of maintaining international peace and security more effectively, however, we must continue to expand and deepen cooperation and dialogue between the United Nations system and those organizations. Is it possible to more clearly define the comparative advantages of the United Nations and each regional organization in problem-solving and their contribution to international peace and security?

Our response to that question is that it is not only possible to do so, but it is also important. In our view, the challenge before the United Nations is not to be everywhere or to attempt to do everything. On the contrary, the emerging reality is that the United Nations can be more effective simply by developing and strengthening its partnerships, especially with regional and subregional organizations, so that the stronger those partnerships are, the stronger and more effective the United Nations becomes.

If that goal is to be achieved, Indonesia reiterates that one size does not and cannot fit all. Owing to cultural and other factors, an approach that may be a winner in one part of the world may not be as successful in another. To that end, it is important to maintain continuing consultations between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations so as to develop an understanding of the lessons and mechanisms that are transferable and those that may not be. Some regional frameworks should receive the right assistance from the United Nations and other actors, and strong efforts should be made to strengthen strategic trust between the United Nations and various organizations. In our view, it is those efforts that will help to develop and strengthen cooperation in such areas as early warning, conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict peacebuilding.

Let me turn to my own region, South-East Asia. Indonesia is a staunch supporter of regional cooperation, and ASEAN forms an integral part of our foreign policy. A stable, peaceful and prosperous South-East Asia, indeed, the Asia-Pacific, as once underlined by Indonesia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Marty Natalegawa, must necessarily entail an ASEAN that is at the heart of the region's dynamics, positively shaping and moulding developments.

Being an ardent proponent of closer United Nations-ASEAN cooperation, we are proud of the fact that among the key outcomes of Indonesia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2011 was the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership and Bali Concord III. Both are seminal documents reflecting a greater ASEAN role on the global stage.

In that connection, allow me to share the following thoughts. ASEAN, as a vibrant and dynamic regional organization, can and should be part of the solution to many global security issues by being effective, capable and peaceful. It must continue to strengthen its role as a net contributor to international peace and security. Stronger and effective regional and subregional organizations, able to promote and wage peace in their respective regions, will not only contribute to global peace but, as has been proved in the case of ASEAN, also enable the countries in the region to channel their resources to development.

What the United Nations can do is to assist regional and subregional organizations such as ASEAN in continuing to build their capacity. The United Nations and ASEAN already have at their disposal such a partnership platform under the Comprehensive Partnership, which can benefit from broadened cooperation in various pertinent areas, including peacebuilding, peacekeeping, mediation and civilian capacity.

I would like to conclude by underscoring the significance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to the maintenance of regional and international peace and security. In order to effectively address conflicts and achieve sustainable results, it is critical that mediation, peacemaking and peacebuilding be deployed from the onset of instability, and nurtured and sustained through an inclusive and credible political process that includes paying attention to the root causes.

Such an endeavour, when undertaken in a spirit of partnership between the United Nations and regional as well as subregional organizations, will inevitably yield greater peace around the world.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Mukerji (India): Madam President, let me begin by congratulating you on presiding over this high-level meeting of the Security Council. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security is an important and topical issue. We commend the concept note (S/2013/446, annex) prepared by the delegation of Argentina on this subject.

India supports the role of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as their cooperation with the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Article 54 of the Charter enjoins such organizations to keep the Security Council fully informed of their activities for the maintenance of international peace and security. We therefore welcome the participation of, and the briefings by, the representatives of various regional organizations in today's meeting.

The Charter provides a broad framework for United Nations cooperation with the regional organizations while clearly underscoring the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

It is important to underline here that cooperation by the United Nations, particularly the Council, with regional organizations should be in full compliance with all other provisions of the Charter. The principles of national sovereignty, political independence, and unity and territorial integrity must be respected. It is important that the peculiarities of each situation be kept in mind. Also, cooperation with one regional organization should not come at the cost of cooperation with another.

We believe that the objective of the peaceful resolution of conflicts should imbue the actions of the United Nations in general and of the Security Council in particular. It is important that Member States guide all United Nations activities, including its cooperation with regional organizations.

While acting under Chapter VIII of the Charter, regional and subregional organizations should make every effort to assist their member States to achieve the pacific settlement of disputes, in cooperation with the United Nations, as appropriate. Such cooperation should encompass all relevant issues related to international peace and security, including the fight against terrorism.

As many as two thirds of the active items on the Security Council's agenda concern Africa. About three fourths of the Council's time is spent on African issues. It would therefore be no exaggeration to say that the success of the Council's cooperation with regional organizations will be determined in significant measure by its cooperation with the African Union (AU), as an example. In that connection, it is important for the Council to listen to Africa and its organizations, so that the Council's activities are not only based on Africa's needs but also complement the efforts of African countries and organizations.

We think that such an important partnership should be based on long-term strategic and operational perspectives, taking into consideration the complementarity of the strengths of the United Nations and the African Union. Our focus should be on building the capacity of the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture, so that the AU can become a more effective and capable partner of the United Nations system.

In conclusion, we reiterate that there is a pressing need to further strengthen the existing capacity of the United Nations system to help regional and subregional organizations in order to significantly ensure the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Bamrungphong (Thailand): First of all, I wish to congratulate Argentina on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August and also thank it for bringing this important issue before the Council for its consideration. I also thank the representatives of the four regional organizations for their substantive and comprehensive briefings.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Thailand joins many of the previous speakers in recognizing and commending the significant role and valuable contributions of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in resolving conflicts and maintaining peace and security. We wholeheartedly support the idea of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as well as that of exploring greater cooperation in the fields of conflict, early warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as contained in document S/PRST/2010/1.

As mentioned by my ASEAN colleague earlier, disaster relief is one area of possible cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. I would like to echo his statement by highlighting one important example of the establishment of Tripartite Core Group — the United Nations, ASEAN and the Government of Myanmar — which was extremely successful in mobilizing and delivering humanitarian aid to people in need in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, which struck Myanmar in 2008.

Indeed, cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations was established many decades ago, and we continue to have close consultations to strengthen our collaboration. This year will see a special session between ASEAN and the United Nations to review our partnership, with the goal of widening and deepening our areas of cooperation.

My delegation would like to highlight the untapped potential of the various regional and subregional arrangements. Given their capacity, their role can extend beyond the original scope of the peaceful settlement of disputes. Thailand envisages an enhanced role for such organizations in confidence-building and preventive diplomacy, which are instrumental for sustainable peace and conflict prevention. In that regard, allow me to offer the Council a few thoughts on the issue.

First, it is essential that the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations increase their focus on preventive measures by expanding and deepening their cooperation in promoting international norms, values and principles of democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for and protection of human rights, which are fundamental for a united and peaceful society.

Secondly, we are concerned by the increase in the number of conflicts and the level of violence that originate from sectarian tension or are precipitated by hate speech, religious rhetoric and racial incitement. Regional and subregional arrangements can serve as early warning mechanisms when tensions arise. Furthermore, those organizations can play a vital role in creating a culture of peace by promoting respect and appreciation for diversity and harmony among peoples of different cultures, faiths and beliefs, both interregionally and intraregionally.

Thirdly, Thailand also encourages closer engagement between regional organizations and the Security Council on issues affecting regional peace and security, from peacekeeping to sanctions, as well as thematic issues on the Security Council's agenda.

Finally, another area where the United Nations and regional organizations can enhance their close cooperation is the systematic compilation and full utilization of regional organizations' knowledge and information on the specific geography and situations on the ground, the unique cultures of local communities and the "do's and don'ts". That will be very useful when multinational forces are deployed for peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions in areas where they lack familiarity.

Let me conclude my statement by paying tribute to the men and women of regional organizations and international forces who tirelessly work and risk their lives in conflict zones around the world in the maintenance of peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Fiji.

Mr. Thomson (Fiji): At the outset, the Fiji delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, for choosing the subject of today's thematic debate. It is most pertinent, given the growing number of peacekeeping mandates issuing from the Security Council and the increasing complexities of the tasks of peacekeeping missions.

The peacekeeping missions of today are not the peacekeeping missions of yore. They include mandates that fit well into traditinal peacebuilding and, sometimes, mandates that focus on development related to the rebuilding of national capacities in the security sector.

Fiji has, in various forums, expressed the need for Security Council peacekeeping mandates to be focused on the requirements of local situations in order to promote local solutions. That includes providing expertise most suitable for the systems existing in the local situation and sourcing peacekeeping expertise from States and regions that are able to provide unified or consistent advice, particularly in the area of building the capacity of local institutions. While expertise from different backgrounds can provide well-intentioned advice, that advice can nonetheless result in local capacities that are not uniform and may not be best suited for the local context.

In such situations, the contributions of regional and subregional groupings that come from similar backgrounds to the host country can be advantageous. What we are saying is that the United Nations should not measure the success of contributions to any peacekeeping mission by the number of States contributing troops, police, corrections or other experts, but by the efficacy of the contributions made in meeting the host country's requirements. It is therefore the Fiji delegation's view that, in examining the principles and forms of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, one element that is often missing from the discussion is how to encourage contributions to peacekeeping from regions that are most suited to the situation in the country concerned and to encourage and use collective peacekeeping capabilities accordingly.

In the Pacific Islands region, we are taking regional initiatives to support United Nations peacekeeping. Fiji already has a well-established record in the service of United Nations peacekeeping. We have recently taken on a new challenge upon request of the United Nations, namely, that of contributing 501 troops to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights at a critical juncture in that mission's work.

Recognizing our established tradition of peacekeeping and the ability of our region to contribute further, the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) has recently agreed to the concept of establishing an MSG Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The MSG is a subregional organization headquartered in Port Vila, Vanuatu, and is comprised of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste of New Caledonia and my own country, Fiji. The MSG's peacekeeping concept is focused on developing collective peacekeeping capabilities in the area of the police sector in peacekeeping.

The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations has agreed to meet an MSG delegation in New York to discuss United Nations support for the development of such collective peacekeeping capability. We look forward to the fruition of that visit and to useful discussions while the delegation is in New York, with a view to assisting the MSG to realize its potential to play a positive role in the United Nations peacekeeping community.

In addressing the principles and forms of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations for the maintenance of international peace and security, we recognize that the United Nations must adhere to the provisions of the Charter that specifically prohibit any enforcement action without the authorization of the Security Council. Actions by regional and subregional organizations must therefore be consistent with the mandates and authority of the Security Council.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to all those who have served in United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1948. For their sake and for the sake of the people in whose countries they serve, our efforts must remain focused on optimizing United Nations peacekeeping in response to changes in global realities. Today's discussion is surely a further step in that direction.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Lithuania.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I would like to begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to Argentina, which holds the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August, for organizing today's debate. I thank the Secretary-General and representatives of the regional organizations present here for their briefings.

Lithuania associates itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union. In addition, allow me to make the following remarks.

In recent years, the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the field of peace and security has evolved in terms of both ambition and scope. We welcome such developments because, as noted by numerous speakers before me, regional actors possess a unique local knowledge, can intervene more promptly through existing standby arrangements and mechanisms and can ensure regional ownership of conflict resolution and subsequent peacebuilding processes. Importantly, the geographical proximity of their members and the specific regional knowledge and experience of those organizations can play an essential role in the early identification of potential conflicts and thus in defusing crises before they occur.

Based on our own experience in preventive diplomacy, including Lithuania's chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), we encourage the United Nations and regional and subregional actors to further explore and strengthen the preventive and confidence-building dimensions of cooperation.

No two crises or conflicts are identical. Therefore, as noted in the 2009 non-paper entitled "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping", the political and operational realities on the ground will continue to demand flexible, case-specific and creative United Nations partnerships with regional actors, building on their comparative strengths, ensuring consistency and complementarity of efforts, and avoiding duplications.

Nowhere has United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations evolved as much as on the African continent, with the African Union (AU), African subregional organizations, the European Union (EU) and occasionally other players, such as the International Organization of la Francophonie, taking part.

Lithuania is proud to contribute to such multifaceted efforts. Recently, our military advisers joined the EU training mission for Malian soldiers in the region of Koulikoro. Earlier this year, Lithuania deployed troops in an anti-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia, a country where the United Nations, the AU, and the EU have joined forces with an aim of restoring peace and stability to that long-suffering nation.

While welcoming the Council's continued dialogue and consultations with regional organizations, as well as joint actions on the ground, we would encourage an enhanced focus on issues of justice and accountability; tackling impunity for crimes against civilian populations, including sexual violence in conflict; and the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security, and children and armed conflict.

Regional and subregional organizations have a vital role in stemming the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, which are responsible for countless civilian victims and damaged lives. My delegation would like to point out in particular that the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty expressly recognizes that regional and subregional organizations can play a role in providing implementation assistance through, inter alia, stockpile management; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes; and developing model legislation.

In the past 10 years, Lithuania provided assistance to some 20 projects related to the destruction of small arms, anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance, carried out by regional organizations. Let me also stress the importance of subregional, regional and international cooperation in the field of non-proliferation. With that in mind, Lithuania organized last year a regional seminar on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This year the Lithuanian chairmanship held a thematic OSCE forum on security cooperation dialogue, with the participation of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Ambassador Kim Sook.

In order to achieve durable peace, it is essential that the United Nations and its regional partners continue to take a long-term view aimed at breaking the pattern of relapse into conflict, which still plagues individual States. In that context, we welcome consistent involvement by regional and subregional actors in, and their ownership of, institution- and capacity-building, implementing the rule of law and strengthening good governance and human rights protection mechanisms.

In conclusion, let me note that cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is not an end in itself. It must lead to tangible improvements and prospects for a safe and dignified life for those suffering from violence and conflict. I am pleased that presidential statement S/PRST/2013/12 reaffirms the common determination of the United Nations and regional actors to work to that effect.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Okafor (Nigeria): I thank you, Mr. President, for your initiative in organizing this important debate, and for providing a valuable concept note (S/2013/446, annex) to facilitate the discussions.

Nigeria is particularly pleased with the depth of cooperation that exists between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), and welcomes the strategic plan to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation between the two organizations in consonance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. We are satisfied that, since its inception, significant strides have been made in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and economic reconstruction in numerous African countries. That has created momentum for the emergence of a more enabling social, economic and political environment in Africa.

We have witnessed United Nations and AU peacekeepers patrol side by side in Darfur, as the two organizations work concertedly to mediate a political solution to that conflict. That enduring collaboration has also proved fruitful in resolving the crisis in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and has provided support to recent African-led mediation efforts in response to political crises in other parts of the continent.

Nigeria ardently believes that cooperation between the United Nations and subregional organizations should be an ongoing and dynamic process so that the benefits of such cooperation can be reaped in preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace support and, indeed, in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. We believe that regional bodies should assume leadership of efforts to maintain regional peace and security, with the international community lending the requisite support. Those organizations, after all, are better placed in terms of geographical proximity, political and cultural familiarity with local conditions, and shared experiences with regard to regional peace and security initiatives.

The response of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to regional crisis situations is illustrative of that potential. Therefore, we would like to emphasize the need for the United Nations to intensify such regional initiatives and to give impetus to the implementation of the United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. More strident efforts are also required to operationalize the African Union Standby Force and the continental early-warning mechanisms.

The situation in Mali underscores the imperative for early warning. It should be recalled that ECOWAS made several attempts to draw international attention to the imminent danger occasioned by the potent mix of religious extremism, the lack of legitimate governance and the failure to address the yearning of a section of the population of Mali. Expedited action in response to warnings of the looming crisis would have alleviated the agony that we face today.

Nigeria recognizes that there are competing demands for United Nations resources on myriad issues, including peace and security, not only in Africa but also in other regions. We therefore believe that it is important to consider not only prioritizing our actions, but also adopting innovative approaches. It is equally important to assess the impact and sustainability of our actions, as well as promote the complementarity of roles in the promotion of peace and security. That will require more intensive partnerships, inclusiveness and purposeful leadership. We believe that there is room in the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to incorporate those vital elements. However, our best intentions will amount to nothing if we fail to provide adequate, flexible and predictable funding for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

It is also necessary to coordinate efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations. That is one of the objectives of the annual consultation between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. We believe that for that interaction to bear fruit, there must be a strengthening of the political will and a firm resolve to implement strategic decisions. In spite of the capacity gaps in the continent's quest to achieve sustainable development, Nigeria will relentlessly support closer collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to ensure that those gaps are appropriately bridged.

We would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2013/12.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): Allow me to join previous speakers in thanking Her Excellency President Cristina Fernández for presiding over this important debate. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Ministers, the Secretary-General and the representatives of international organizations for their presence and contributions this morning.

Armenia aligns itself with the joint statement made on behalf of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). However we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

We welcome the increasing close relations between the CSTO and the United Nations aimed at strengthening the ties and seeking concerted actions in our quest for international peace and stability.

In the area of preventive diplomacy, both organizations have been working in close partnership to address root causes and potential conflicts, as well as promoting measures against cross-border crime, terrorism and drug trafficking, so as to ensure conditions for peaceful sustainable development, as such transnational crimes continually threaten security, stability and development, especially in the world's vulnerable regions.

The cooperation with and between regional organizations is being discussed more and more in various United Nations organs and agencies as the means for increasing responsibility and involvement in addressing international challenges and transnational regional threats. In an increasing number of its operations on the ground, the United Nations is calling on the services of the relevant regional agencies and organizations, because, among other things, in certain areas those organizations are able to provide expertise and a better understanding of the local peculiarities to complement those of the United Nations. In some instances, they can be mandated to perform the same tasks, and rightly so.

It is worth mentioning that, in recent years, regional and subregional organizations have played an increasing role in conflict prevention, management and resolution. Many of them have developed tailored capabilities for action in the maintenance of international and regional peace and security, as evidenced in a number of peacekeeping operations and mediations in different parts of the world.

Armenia highly values the close cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). We are convinced that the OSCE is an inclusive and comprehensive security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian areas. Its role should be further augmented to tackle new challenges and threats to security.

Since 1992, the OSCE has been engaged in the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh issue, which erupted in the region as a result of aggression. Today, Armenia attaches great importance to the efforts of the OSCE Mink Group co-Chairs, aimed at reaching a fully informed, just and peaceful resolution of the conflict based on mutual compromise. We believe that this agreed format, which includes the Russian Federation, the United States and France, has enough capacity to maintain its lead role in the negotiating process. That role has been confirmed on many occasions, in particular in the commemorative declaration of the Astana summit of the OSCE.

Armenia is deeply confident that ongoing negotiations within this framework will serve as one of the major prerequisites for the maintenance of the 1994 ceasefire between the parties to the conflict, without any peacekeeping forces deployed on the ground. One of the advantages of the OSCE Minsk Group is that the principles that have been established by the co-Chairs to date are based on initial compromises reached between the parties to the conflict as a result of negotiations. Those principles should be treated as equal, without establishing any arbitrary hierarchy among them.

In May, Armenia assumed the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, a regional intergovernmental organization that remains a key partner of the United Nations in our shared global quest united behind the principles of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe is also well established, inter alia, in the fields of the fight against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance; the fight against terrorism and human trafficking; the promotion of intercultural dialogue, the strengthening of the rule of law, and the fostering of democratic societies.

These issues are also Armenia's chairmanship priorities, and have been defined in response to the challenges that States members of both the United Nations and the Council of Europe are facing today, with specific focus on issues that we consider to be the most pertinent and to require immediate action. Armenia will contribute to furthering the Council of Europe's cooperation with other international organizations, including the United Nations. Such cooperation is essential to achieving better synergies among activities and to the enhanced effectiveness and impact of efforts.

I wish to conclude my statement by thanking you, Madam, for the initiative of convening this open debate. We must all nurture and support steps and initiatives aimed at expanding cooperation with existing partners, and seek new opportunities for partnership arrangements with other regional organizations that are working to advance the cause of international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor to the representative of Botswana.

Mr. Ntwaagae (Botswana): Allow me to congratulate you, Madam, and your country on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month. We also thank you very much for convening this open debate today.

Let me at the outset reiterate the importance that Botswana attaches to the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It is for this reason that, as a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), we are proud of the role we play in contributing to a peaceful world order. Our belief is that, the role of regional or subregional organizations in promoting peace and security is closely linked to the larger role played by the Council in discharging its mandate. While we believe in the supremacy of the Security Council in discharging its mandate, as provided for in Article 24 of the Charter United Nations, we believe that regional and subregional organizations constitute an important building block in addressing issues of conflict prevention, mediation and management at the regional level.

The rising number of conflicts and peacebuilding missions across the world has put a lot of pressure on the Council's ability to deploy resources in every corner of the globe where they are required. Furthermore, the cost of managing and maintaining peace very often depends on regional dynamics and sensitivities that can better be addressed by local institutions, which have a better understanding of the culture and language of the region.

Article 24 of the United Nations Charter confers on the Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations not only relieves the burden of the Council in dispensing its primary responsibility, but also helps cultivate a culture of peace and security, which the Council is mandated to do. The strain of implementing various Security Council mandates necessitated an increased role for Member States' contribution to An Agenda for Peace (S/24111), accompanied by a rise in the role of regional and subregional organizations. This partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations has become the ultimate instruction manual for resolving complex emergencies through conflict management and peacekeeping.

However, the price of peace should never be considered too much to pay when evaluation is conducted regarding the necessary response and enforcement action required following the outbreak of conflict. Maintaining the context and support of the United Nations in regional initiatives contributes greatly to the transformation of the character of such missions. United Nations regional and subregional cooperation also ensures that impediments related to limited resources, capacity constraints, and political and economic fragilities relating to some situations and environments are easily overcome. My delegation therefore cannot overemphasize the importance of the provision of training and logistical and material support to the military, police and civil personnel on an ongoing basis in order to prepare for the eventual success of deployments and peacekeeping operations.

Cooperation between the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations should therefore be sustained and strengthened, not only as a source of prevention, but also for purposes of reinforcing the platform for post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction. In this context, my delegation therefore welcomes the efforts and progress made closer to home surrounding the implementation of the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor to the representative of Qatar.

Mr. Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like, at the outset, to express our sincere pleasure at seeing the President of the Argentine Republic preside over the Council's debate this morning. We congratulate Argentina on assuming the presidency of the Council this month. We also thank the Argentine delegation for convening today's open debate on a very important topic and for providing the concept paper before us (S/2013/446, annex), which highlights the important of cooperation between the United Nations and regional subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I furthermore commend the importance attached to the ongoing discussion of this important issue by the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

We take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Samantha Power as she takes up her new post and to wish her every success. We look forward to cooperating with her in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the United Nations.

The continued discussion of this topic in the Security Council and the submission by the Secretary-General of various initiatives in that context is a reaffirmation of the fact that the discussion on the importance and usefulness of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is no longer academic or theoretical; it is a fact based on experiences witnessed by the entire world. It is therefore clear that such organizations play a significant role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Our delegation therefore deems it very important that specific mechanisms and norms be established in order to enable regional organizations to fulfil their mandates in accordance with the Charter. Such mechanisms and norms must also be implemented in order to help prevent conflicts and to resolve them in keeping with international law, wherever they may take place and without discrimination, in order to achieve the primary objective of the United Nations: to maintain international peace and security, as set out in Article, paragraph 1, of the Charter.

Experience has shown that with the growing number of armed conflicts and the increasing obstacles and difficulties confronting the United Nations in certain cases, the efforts of the United Nations require support from regional organizations in accordance with the mandate set out in Chapter VIII of the Charter. It is clear that regional organizations are the best and least costly option in terms of material and human resources for gaining an understanding of what is happening in some of those conflicts. They are the most capable of analysing information relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in each region. That regional role has been very important in the prevention or resolution of several conflicts.

We must therefore devote greater attention to cooperation between regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations in order to strengthen the relationship between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations. That requires the creation of an international atmosphere that is conducive to enhancing the capabilities of such organizations, thereby enabling them to operate effectively on the basis of Chapter VIII of the Charter. If such organizations avail themselves of those resources, they will then become the front line of the United Nations in dealing with and resolving regional problems and preventing their spillover, as well as in countering threats to international peace and security. That would save the United Nations a great deal of effort, and it could then devote greater attention to other regions, especially in the area of development. All of the foregoing will require the full implementation of Chapter VIII of the Charter, specifically Article 52, paragraph 1.

The Security Council and the General Assembly have adopted a number of resolutions on supporting cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. They have welcomed the efforts of such organizations in connection with the maintenance of international peace and security and in furtherance of the objectives of the Charter. In addition, many important partnerships have been created between the Security Council and various regional organizations. Also, as noted by previous speakers today, regional and subregional organizations have helped to prevent and resolve conflicts as well as in post-conflict peacekeeping, and to implement Security Council resolutions in that regard.

However, we are still awaiting the implementation of several relevant resolutions. Here I would specifically mention the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly on the Middle East, where the failure to implement them has led to continued instability and threats to international peace and security.

Cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States on various occasions during the past two decades has led to positive results in the context of regional and global stability. The Council was keen to work closely with the League of Arab States on the basis of Chapter VIII of the Charter, and several dangerous crises in the region and elsewhere were addressed.

The Council has relied in several of its resolutions on the vision and perspective of the League of Arab States, which, in turn, was also keen to implement those resolutions. However, today we are seeing a lack of responsiveness to the resolutions of the League of Arab States concerning the great dangers that threaten our region and its stability as a result of the inability of the Security Council to reach agreement on those issues. Here I would specifically mention the conflict in Syria, although it poses a great danger and has immediate effects on international peace and security.

The League of Arab States, based on its role as a regional organization, as mandated in its charter, and in keeping with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, has adopted several resolutions aimed at resolving the conflict in Syria on the basis of international law and respect for international humanitarian law and human rights. However, despite the fact that those resolutions demanded that the Security Council fulfil its role as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations and the fact that the League expressed its readiness to cooperate with the Council in order to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Council, unfortunately, has been unable to carry out its duties. That is despite the fact that the conflict has resulted in more than 100,000 civilian deaths and several million refugees and internally displaced persons, and that external militias have now entered the fray. That has led to further sectarian tensions in the region, threats to its security and stability, and violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Resolving that conflict will require the Council to fulfil its responsibilities and cooperate directly with the relevant international organizations.

The Syrian regime, instead of respecting the will of the Syrian people and abiding by international resolutions, has attempted to divert attention from the war crimes and crimes against humanity that it has committed by making desperate accusations. However, League of Arab States resolutions are based on international law, and we hope for further cooperation, such as existed in the past between the League and the United Nations, in line with the Charter and in order to help support the Council in its efforts to preserve international peace and security.

I should like to conclude by reiterating the commitment of Qatar, as a member of the League of Arab States and a State Member of the United Nations, to further support the United Nations in all efforts aimed at promoting the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations and at addressing crises and achieving peaceful settlements. The Council is aware of the efforts made by the State of Qatar in recent years to ease tensions in several countries and to avert and settle conflicts, including dangerous military conflicts, that could have posed a threat to international peace and security.

Madam President, we are proud of the fact that the Security Council has acknowledged the role of our country in its resolutions, and we welcome the presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/12) prepared by your country.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Madam President, allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this month, and to thank you for having convened this meeting to discuss cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

The founding fathers of the United Nations were committed to including in Chapter VIII of the Charter language aimed at supporting the efforts of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. That is because they were fully aware of the fact that international peace is an indivisible whole and that it was imperative to create effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, one recommendation of the joint United Nations-African Union panel established by resolution 1809 (2008) was to set up a mechanism for the sustainable financing of African Union peacekeeping missions supported by the United Nations.

Part I of that report focused on methods to promote the strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union and invigorated joint action channels between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in a manner that rises to the level of partnership and direct coordination, including decision-making and responsibility-sharing according to the mandate of each body.

In the context of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, we commend the ongoing consultation and exchange of visits between the two since the creation of the African Union Peace and Security Council was created in 2004. However, we still look forward to improved coordination and closer cooperation, especially in relation to the support provided by the United Nations to the 10-year capacity-building programme designed to build and promote African Union capacity in the various fields of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

With regard to peacekeeping, we would like to highlight the cooperation between the Secretariat and the African Union Commission in the context of the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which has proven its value and effectiveness since the former African Union Mission in the Sudan was transformed into a hybrid joint mission between the two organizations on 31 December 2007, pursuant to resolution 1769 (2007). Thus, the mission became an example and model of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, we would also refer to the joint report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of June 2007, which stated that UNAMID is a mission with a predominantly African character, with the United Nations providing financial, technical and logistical support, including advice and expertise in various areas that embody cooperation between the two organizations.

In the same vein, in discussing cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, I would like to highlight another example of the value of cooperation between the African Union and international organizations. The regional mediation mechanism known as the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, headed by Mr. Thabo Mbeki, plays a very important role in promoting peace within the Sudan and between the Sudan and South Sudan. That is a constructive example of cooperation that should be strengthened and promoted. Such mechanisms should be accorded sufficient time to finish settling all outstanding issues between the two countries.

In conclusion, I would like to second and support the affirmation, made by a number of speakers before me, that regional and subregional organizations are more specifically qualified to achieve peace and security in their regions because of their knowledge of the culture, nature and specific characteristics of the areas of conflict within their respective regions. Accordingly, we appeal to the Security Council to cooperate with those organizations and provide them with enough capacity to address those conflicts.

Finally, we support the presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2013/12) and its emphasis on supporting the growing role of regional and subregional organizations, which complements the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. We also commend and support the presidential statement's mention of promoting the capacity of national justice systems in order to contribute to accountability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Solomon Islands.

Mrs. Kenilorea (Solomon Islands): My delegation attaches great importance to the subject of today's open debate and commends you, Madam President, and the Government of Argentina for convening this timely discussion of the agenda item.

As stated by the 2004 report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (A/59/565), while the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the Security Council, over time a considerable number of regional and subregional groups have been established. Some of those organizations have directly contributed to peace and stability and receive little or insufficient attention by the United Nations.

Following the ethnic conflict that erupted in Solomon Islands, the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum dispatched the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) at the invitation of the Government of Solomon Islands. RAMSI, which initially consisted of 2,000 military personnel was led by Australia, with the support of New Zealand and all of the Pacific small island developing States. RAMSI involved military, police and civilian components. It was headed by a civilian and it successfully carried out peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peacemaking roles. After 10 years of operation, the Mission, as of last month, is now going through a transitional phase. The military component has since withdrawn, with the police component now playing a more advisory role.

The success of RAMSI can be put down to the partnership the Mission has with the Government and the people of Solomon Islands. Sufficient resources provided by the region in carrying out its work and the flexibility of the Mission have allowed RAMSI to adapt to changing situations on the ground.

In the 10 years of regional operations in Solomon Islands, there has been only one loss of life of RAMSI personnel. Thousands of soldiers, police and civilians have been rotated through the regional Mission. Last month, in marking the tenth anniversary of RAMSI, my Government and people thanked all 14 United Nations Members of the Pacific Islands Forum and two non-members of the United Nations for contributing to international peace and security.

Today, a subregional organization of the Pacific, the Melanesian Spearhead Group has established a Department of Peacekeeping Operations unit within its Secretariat. Solomon Islands would like to welcome improved coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations and share information and expertise as appropriate, especially with regional organizations that have peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peacemaking capacities. Such relationships are provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and should be encouraged.

We are pleased to see that consultation between the United Nations and regional organizations is increasing. It will be noted that, in all Solomon Island statements that we have delivered in the Council this year and in the past in such open debates, we have always recognized the role of regional organizations, by way of complying with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, in keeping the Council abreast of the activities undertaken by regional organizations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to representative of Georgia.

Mr. Imnadze (Georgia): At the outset, let me underline that Georgia aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union (EU). Allow me now to make a brief intervention in my national capacity.

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to Argentina, as the current presidet of the Security Council, for this excellent opportunity to discuss the regional aspect of security and the significant assistance provided by the United Nations to regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. In this context, allow me to highlight the excellent cooperation developed between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM, as well as the priorities of Georgia as Chair State of the GUAM in 2013.

Fifteen years of active work have shaped GUAM into a full-fledged regional organization with a well-established institutional infrastructure. This organization unites countries with common interests and challenges and gives us a unique opportunity to speak out in unison on a number of pressing issues of common concern. The global political landscape has opened new horizons for cooperation and created stronger incentives for joint actions within GUAM.

The ever-changing international environment, new challenges and opportunities have led us to develop an even closer interaction within and beyond the organization. In that light, I would like to stress the importance of resolution 67/109, adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2012, on cooperation between the United Nations and GUAM. The resolution envisages deepening cooperation between the two international organizations and places such cooperation within an appropriate institutional framework. The adoption of that text was important in terms of increasing the involvement of the United Nations specialized agencies within the GUAM area in such fields as anti-terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking, integrated border management and so on. The adoption of the resolution by consensus clearly demonstrated the importance that States Members of the United Nations attach to enhancing cooperation with GUAM, which we highly value.

Under the current chairmanship of GUAM, Georgia's priority is to promote political interaction between the GUAM States. We have a very close, if not coinciding, set of foreign policy priorities, and therefore consider GUAM as a format that reinforces the position of individual member States in the network of international relations. In addition, Georgia is focused on facilitating sectoral cooperation by implementing mutually beneficial projects within GUAM in the economic, energy, transportation and other spheres, as well as enhancing cooperation with major partners of the organization in GUAM+ formats, such as GUAM-United States and GUAM-Japan. The activation of the interparliamentary dimension is also one of the main priorities of the chairmanship of Georgia, as this direction undoubtedly has a potential for further evolution, giving a significant impetus to democratic development within the GUAM area.

While talking about regional cooperation, I would like to underline the United Nations active cooperation with the EU and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to ensure sustainable security on the European continent. For Georgia, that interaction acquires a particular importance within the Geneva international discussions through active co-chairmanship of the format. We highly appreciate the mediation that the United Nations and its team provide between Russia and Georgia. We believe that the restoration of the full-fledged mission on the territory of Georgia and its regions would redouble the United Nations contribution to preserving security and stability in Georgia and the wider region.

We value the United Nations key role and its cooperation with the EU within the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. We are confident that this format provides solid ground for further developing the cooperation between the United Nations, the OSCE and the EU on security issues through the joint participation of the United Nations and the OSCE in both of the Mechanisms mentioned. Unfortunately, given certain obstacles, the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Gali has been deadlocked since April 2012, but we are confident that our common diplomatic efforts will be successful in resuming this Mechanism.

Regional organizations play an important role in the development of regional cooperation, conflict prevention, the peaceful settlement of disputes, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. In that context, we deem the United Nations continuous support to be vital in assisting regional organizations in facilitating and solidifying the process of regional sustainability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The representative of the United Kingdom wishes to make a further statement.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I thank the presidency for allowing the United Kingdom to make a further statement. I wish to respond to some of the statements made in relation to the Falkland Islands. I note the very questionable relevance of this issue to the theme of today's debate and regret the fact that some participants have used this debate, in which we have seen a very valuable and timely discussion of United

Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, as a platform for expressing positions on a range of unrelated issues.

Several ministerial participants referred in their statements to Argentina's so-called legitimate claim to the Falkland Islands. The United Kingdom does not accept that Argentina has any legitimate claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The historical facts and legal position are quite clear. The United Kingdom has administered the Falkland Islands peacefully and effectively for more than 180 years. In 1850, by ratifying the bilateral Convention for settlement of existing differences, Argentina acknowledged that there was no territorial dispute between the two countries.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that respect for self-determination was a founding principle of CELAC. The United Kingdom also attaches great importance to that principle, which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In March, the people of the Falkland Islands exercised their right to self-determination in a referendum, which established overwhelmingly their wish to remain an overseas territory of the United Kingdom

In her national statement, President Fernández said that the United Kingdom and Argentina should bilaterally discuss the Falkland Islands. The United Kingdom is clear that any such discussion is not just a matter for the two Governments. The views of the people of the Falkland Islands cannot simply be ignored. There can be no discussion of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands against the wishes of the islanders.

Finally, I reject the suggestion of the Foreign Minister of Uruguay that illegitimate oil-related activities are being conducted in Falkland Island waters, which constitute unilateral measures by the United Kingdom, contrary to a General Assembly resolution. The decision to exploit its natural resources was made by the Falkland Islands Government for the benefit of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in accordance with the right of self-determination of the people of the Falkland Islands under international law. All activities related to hydrocarbons on the continental shelf of the Falkland Islands are regulated by legislation of the Falkland Islands Government in strict accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now speak briefly in my capacity as the representative of Argentina.

Argentina's position with regard to its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands is well known and reference was made to it this morning.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The representative of the United States wishes to make a further statement.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Let me address an issue unrelated to our debate that was raised earlier today, namely, the United States efforts to prevent terrorism and the recent disclosure of classified information about techniques we use to do that.

All Governments do things that are secret: it is a fact of modern governing and a necessity in the light of the threats all our citizens face. Our counter-terrorism policy is ultimately about saving people's lives, which is why the United States works with other countries to protect our citizens and those of other nations from many threats. All nations should be concerned about the damage these disclosures can cause to our ability to collectively defend against those threats.

The United States commitment to advancing universal human rights dates to our founding, and continues strongly to this day under President Obama. Therefore, we welcome a fair discussion about the appropriate balance between privacy and security, and will continue to work with our partners to address the many challenges and threats we all face.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.55 p.m.